

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17.

The house was engaged, some three hours, in the discussion of the Oregon question. The rush for the floor is greater than ever. It would seem that every member of the house is anxious to speak on the question; and, surely, none ever arose that is more important or interesting to congress and the whole country.

Mr. Cooke, of Tennessee, opposed the notice; and Mr. Bedinger, of Va. took the same ground, with Mr. Hunter, of Va. in support of our title to Oregon, and of a passive course, as the best means of asserting it. He advocated, strongly and eloquently, the policy of settling the country, and thereby, acquiring it peaceably and effectually. He supposed that, in a few years, we should have a hundred thousand people in Oregon, with twenty thousand rifles.

Mr. Morse, of Louisiana, spoke in support of the notice, though last year he had opposed it, because the negotiation was then pending.

But the case was now very different. The negotiation was broken off, and there was no hope that the government of Great Britain would propose other terms than those which it had offered. It had four times rejected our offers of commerce, and the last time, in an indignant manner. No one in the house or in the country, supposed that this government would accept any terms short of the 49th. The government would become a laughing stock to all the world, if it did so. But no one entertained such an idea. We were, therefore, obliged to sustain the government, and give the notice. He did not believe that the result would be war. If so, the Oregon question would be a mere pretext on the part of Great Britain. At the same time, if, before the notice was given, Great Britain should accept our terms, we were in honor bound to stand to our proposition. As to war and its horrors, he thought we had no occasion to be much alarmed, if they should come upon us. The boasted steam navy of Great Britain would be of little use away from home. It was valuable only for sea coast defence. We had thousands of vessels which could be soon armed, and be as efficient for the defence of our harbors as any other vessels.—*N. Y. Journal of Commerce.*

THE OREGON NEGOTIATION.

The fact is, the accession of Texas has given a new value to Oregon. Oregon was once a remote and almost detached corner of the American empire. Now the want of Oregon, or slicing it away, would put the Union out of shape. It is all wanted to square the American territory. Our friend, "the small cloud of the west," is growing apace, and if there comes a storm, what refreshing showers may we not predict for our Emerald Isle. From the aggrandizement of no other power on earth has England so much to apprehend as from that of America.

France may sweep the continent of Europe with her victorious legions, but the sea may continue to say to her, as it has said hitherto, "thus far shalt thou go, and no farther."

The ocean has up to this time defined, and the spread of French empire, as sharply as the same ocean defines the snow fleece that heets a wintry continent. But America is a naval power. Already in her infancy of nationhood, she quadruples the commerce of France; but half a century old, the commercial tonnage of her flag is equal to fully two-thirds of the tonnage of that flag which has "braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze." Of America, not less than of England,

"Her mach is on the mountain wave,
Her home is on "the deep."

In the coming day of her strength, wherever she may desire to strike, the ocean will be no impediment, but only the highway of her power.—*Dublin Nation, Aug. 16.*

From the "Union," (Washington City.)

OPINION OF POLK'S MESSAGE.—We are compelled to postpone till to-morrow evening a translated editorial article from the *Courier des Etats Unis* on the President's message. It is admirable in its analysis of the contents of this important document; and its commentaries are striking in their character, and generally just. "Not that the message (says the *Courier*) does not bear the impress, in all the questions to which it refers, of a frankness and vigor which invest it with a powerful interest, a thrilling importance, &c., but Mr. Polk has displayed an

admirable skill in disguising the energy of thoughts, and the boldness of intentions, under forms full of moderation, address, and courtesy. It has been many years since the people of the United States held towards foreign nations a language so proud and so calm." The *Courier* expresses the opinion upon the whole passage which relates to the tariff, "that never have the true principles which ought to serve as the basis of the establishment of impost duties, been so powerfully and so logically developed." Upon the great question of Oregon, the *Courier* says "that there had been little suspicion of the extent of the concessions which had, up to the last hour, been offered to Great Britain, and which are now for the first time revealed. Public opinion is scandalized, and with great reason, at the blundering obstinacy which England has shown in refusing these concessions; and those even who were least disposed to insist on the rights of the United States, are of opinion that concessions were carried sufficiently far; and if they have any regrets, they are not disposed to blame the resolution taken by Mr. Polk to yield nothing more to John Bull, whose avidity is insatiate."

THE MESSAGE.

Extract of a letter to a gentleman in this city, dated PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 2, 1845.

The President's message arrived at the post office of this city at twenty-five minutes past five. It was read at the time, and received by the people with shouts of applause. Its high American tone of feeling, its justice, patriotism, and beautiful diction, have met with universal approbation. It is, indeed, unsurpassed by any American document ever issued by a President of the United States. A warm and enthusiastic citizen cried out "Hurra! Jackson is alive again." It will create prodigious sensation throughout this country and Europe."

From the New York Herald, Nov. 30.

NEWS FROM THE PACIFIC.—We have received, by way of Vera Cruz, intelligence from Oahu, Sandwich Islands, to the 5th September, Honolulu to 1st of September, and Tahiti to the middle of August.

The accounts from Tahiti state that her Britannic Majesty's ship *Collingwood*, Admiral Sir George Seymour, had arrived there and saluted the French protectorate flag. This is rather singular, and seems to indicate that the English, in order to carry some point in the Pacific, have concluded to recognize and tolerate the French aggressions in that sea. It is to be borne in mind that Sir George Seymour has command of the English fleet stationed on the north Pacific coast, and to operate on the shores of Oregon, if need be. It is to watch this fleet that Commodore Stockton has just been despatched in the frigate *Congress*.

SENATOR BENTON.—The remarks made by senator Benton on Tuesday, in relation to preparations for war, have created in this section of the country the greatest satisfaction. There is no man in that honorable body—there is no citizen of this union—who would more promptly appeal to arms if occasion required it in behalf of the republic, than Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri. His patriotism, his devotion, and his ardor have never been doubted. When such a man comes forth in the zenith of his fame and popularity—enjoying the entire confidence of his party—and says, "I see no reason to make a war speech—I see no reason for advocating a war measure, when every thing around us indicates peace," the country may be tranquil, and all the hectic excitement produced by speculators, by political aspirants, and by those who have nothing to lose by war, fade into comparative insignificance.—*New York Sun.*

THE WAR IN SOUTH AMERICA.—We learn by Buenos Ayres papers of the 8th November and letters of the 10th, received by the U. S. S. Boston, at Norfolk, that the allied fleets had not yet sailed up the La Plata. Insurrectionary parties, instigated by Bolivian servants of the English and French, had penetrated into one of the northern states of the Argentine Union, and a General of some repute, a second Arnold, joined them in the night. The affair had created no uneasiness at Buenos Ayres: the government feels perfectly secure against all the efforts of France, England and Brazil, a fact which shows how powerful these American republics are in defensive warfare.—*New York Sun.*



THE SPECTATOR.

J. FLEMING, PR.

Oregon City, August 20, 1846.

By reference to the last number of this paper, it will be seen that Mr. LEE has ceased to act as its editor; consequently, the Board of Directors, at a late meeting, appointed a committee to procure another; and until the vacancy is filled, the publisher, who is one of said Board, has been requested to officiate. The next number of the *Spectator* will, in all probability, be introduced to its patrons, under the direction of one, it is hoped, who will be found worthy and true.

"BETTER LATE THAN NEVER."—We embrace this late opportunity of tendering our thanks to the editors of the "Friend" and "Polynesian," at the Sandwich Islands, for forwarding us, by the *Toulon*, (which vessel arrived in our waters on the 24th of June,) regular files of their papers, and also files of papers from N. York and other places in the U. States. These papers were placed in the hands of the late editor of the "Spectator," soon after the arrival of the *Toulon*, but for reasons best known to himself, nothing was gleaned from them in reference to the action of the U. States' congress concerning this territory. The publisher of the *Spectator*, however, being desirous that the citizens of this territory, and also the patrons of the press, should be apprised of what has been said and done in Congress, with regard to the settlement of the Oregon question, has made copious extracts from the proceedings of the national legislature, which will be found in this day's paper, and which, we think, cannot fail to gratify and interest them.

HON. JAS. B. BOWLIN'S SPEECH.—For the gratification of the readers of the *Spectator*, the publisher thereof takes the responsibility, in the absence of an editor, of copying the concluding part of the speech of Judge Bowlin, of Missouri, on the "occupation of Oregon," delivered in the United States' house of representatives, on the 29th Jan., 1845. It will be found on the fourth page of this paper, and will be read with interest by every true American in Oregon. We are aware that there are some "dough faces" in our midst, who are ever ready to condemn any thing that has for its object the maintenance of our title to this territory. Such characters are not compelled to peruse articles obnoxious to their views. It is our object to please that class of our citizens who are American in feeling and in word. It would have been gratifying to us, could we have published this important document entire, but its length prevents us from doing so.

A VOICE FROM THE PRESS.—No doubt many will be the surmises and conjectures as to the future prospects of the "Spectator," arising from the circumstance of the removal of Mr. Lee from the editorship. We hear it already remarked, that the paper must undoubtedly go down—that no individual in this country is so well qualified as the late editor, and consequently, the paper is left in the lurch. Without wishing to detract from, or animadvert in the least on, the abilities or course of those who have heretofore occupied the editorial chair, we venture to predict that our paper will yet be edited to the satisfaction of at least a majority of the subscribers—that it will give satisfaction to certain individuals and their friends who are subscribers, we do not flatter ourselves. But one thing we do venture to affirm, that, let it sink or swim, the columns of the *Spectator* shall be open for the publication of all matter that shall have for its object the advocating of American interests in this country, and their right to the soil, in preference to any other nation on the globe—even to John Bull himself. That a paper, published by Americans in Oregon, and that paper too, the only channel through which the interests and feelings of the Americans in Oregon can be made known to the world, should be restricted in its publications, and so conducted as to meet the approbation and save the feelings of some whose principles and views are, to all intents and purposes, anti-American, is preposterous in the extreme, and not to be thought of for a moment.—"SPECTATOR."

WHEAT CROP.—It must be exceedingly gratifying to those persons whose business or inclination leads them to make excursions through the various settlements in the Willamette Valley, to witness the abundant and luxuriant "golden harvest" of wheat, which our enterprising and industrious farmers are now endeavoring to secure. The weather has been very favorable for securing the wheat crop, no rain having fallen from the commencement of the harvesting until the present period, and no more indications of rain are now presented than existed a month since, and the gathering of the harvest is nearly concluded. The wheat is generally large and well filled, and amply meets the expectation of the farmer.

OUR PROSPECTS.—From all the intelligence which we can gather from the last files of newspapers from the United States, in reference to the Oregon question, we have little hesitation in avowing our conviction of the passage of a bill in Congress, authorizing the President to give to England the required year's notice of the termination of the joint occupancy of Oregon. The course recommended by the President, which will probably be adopted and pursued by Congress, in relation to this long pending controversy, will command the admiration of all enlightened and civilized nations. Acting upon the honorable principle, "to ask nothing that is not clearly right, and to submit to nothing that is evidently wrong," she first examines carefully and minutely, the respective claims of each of the contending parties, and then, finding the bold pretensions of Great Britain to be absurd and without foundation, she will act promptly and decidedly in defending this infant territory from invasion by a foreign enemy. The United States has obtained a just character and standing among the civilized nations of the earth, for her integrity of purpose and steadfastness of resolution when her honor as a sovereign and independent nation is in danger of being tarnished. Local jealousies between the separate sovereign states in relation to each other's prosperity and advancement, may exist, but when the rights and immunities of the whole nation are assailed by a foreign invader, these jealousies are immediately forgotten, and "E pluribus unum," is inscribed on the breastplate of every American freeman. When the expediency of the admission of Texas into the Union was under discussion, much more hesitation and doubt were evinced, both by the people of the United States and Congress, than has ever been manifested in relation to our valid title to Oregon. But Texas has been admitted as a co-partner into our great federal Union, and following, in quick succession, Oregon, and the whole of Oregon, we predict will speedily be ranked in the list of organized territories belonging to the United States, and that too, without a dissenting voice following as the consequence.

INDEPENDENT DREAM.—We understand a gentleman, somewhere in this Oregonian land of aspirations, had a singular dream on the night of the 13th of July last, which it is said, was in reference to the inevitable abilities of Webster, Sprague, and other prominent men in the U. States, and which he designed having published. The printer, however, has not seen the manuscript, although he has heard its contents spoken of in the city as an interesting affair. It is supposed the late editor, who is absent, has either mislaid it, or forgot to leave it with us, on his retiring from the editorial chair of the *Spectator*. Be this as it may, we are sorry it has been withheld from the "public eye," being satisfied it would not only have been amusing to our readers, but also convince them, as Sam Patch said before taking the fatal leap, that "some things can be done as well as others."

LAND CLAIMS.—We understand that a number of individuals from this side of the Columbia, have recently made so bold as to take claims in the immediate vicinity of Vancouver. And we learn that in one instance, this procedure has caused an altercation between one of the claimants and the authorities at Vancouver, which is likely to terminate in a lawsuit. We are opposed to any thing like claim-jumping or intruding on the claim of any individual who has complied with the conditions of the law, in having it recorded and improvement made thereon within a certain limited time, yet we cannot see with some, that the offence of dispossessing an individual of his claim who has failed to comply with the conditions required by the statute, is any more heinous in its nature, barely from the fact that it is on the north side of the Columbia or near Fort Vancouver, when it is not intruding on grounds occupied by the Hudson Bay Company.

ADOPTION OF ABORIGINAL PRACTICES.—It is generally known that the Indian tribes around us, after having engaged in warlike and bloody combat with their enemies, usually either leave their slaughtered victims upon the battle field uninterred, or, if their cannibalism inclines them to feast upon the flesh of the slain, they dissect the lifeless bodies of the massacred, carefully preserving the choicest portions of the body for food, and leave the useless appendances upon the field of battle. In like manner, some of our fellow-citizens, while engaged in the laudable employment of furnishing animal nourishment to gratify the alimeric appetites of the inhabitants of this city, slaughter their unoffending victims upon the unoccupied square of ground lying in front of our office, and select therefrom such portions as their interest or their appetites demand, and leave the remainder upon the field of massacre. These remnants, while undergoing the process of decomposition, produce a very pestilential effluvia, exceedingly ungrateful to the olfactory organs of those who live in the immediate vicinity. If this ground must be occupied for a general slaughter yard, we hope our worthy Mayor will give instructions to those who slaughter there, to take from the square all the remnants which would be calculated to corrupt the surrounding atmosphere.