



# THE SPECTATOR.

J. FLEMING, PR.

Oregon City, September 17, 1846.

## Good News.

By St. Louis papers, of the 25th and 27th of April last, we learn that the bill providing for an extension of the government of the United States over the territory and citizens of Oregon, passed through the House of Representatives, on the 19th of April, without debate. The "Notice Bill," which had passed the Senate on the 16th of the same month by a vote of 40 to 14, had likewise passed the House with some slight amendment, which it was presumed a conference would settle.

We received this intelligence at too late an hour for a more extended notice in our present number; in our next, however, we shall probably spread it entire before our readers.

"HAIL COLUMBIA, HAPPY LAND."

**EMIGRANTS.**—Several families with their wagons have arrived in our City, and appear healthy and cheerful. They traveled over Mr. Barlow's road, over which probably most of the emigration will come. There appears to be a general willingness on the part of the emigration to pay the required toll, only one individual, among a large company which has traveled over it, having refused to pay. Mr. Barlow is entitled to much credit and gratitude, both from the present emigration and succeeding ones, for the perseverance he has manifested in surveying out and making this road. Although we are informed that it can and ought to be greatly improved.

These emigrants report that the wagons will probably all arrive in town in the course of three weeks.

**Delegate to Congress.**—The propriety of sending a delegate from this provisional government to represent our situation and interests to the U. States' Congress, at an early period as circumstances will allow, has been recently somewhat discussed amongst us. This country has presented an admirable scene of tranquility and industry, perhaps without a parallel in the past history of new colonies. This peace and happy appearance have resulted from a combination of causes and circumstances: the people have early imbibed, from the liberal and republican institutions under which they have been nurtured and educated, an unconquerable desire for self-government; but feeling their feebleness and the insufficiency of available means for their present and future security and protection, they have maintained and husbanded their present abilities and resources under our temporary government, with the reasonable expectation of receiving succor and protection from our mother country when a timely opportunity should present itself. The question now arises, whether the time has not now arrived, when we can, without impairing either the dignity or independence of our own government or people, present our real situation and wants before the U. States' Congress, by sending a delegate at the earliest practicable period, to represent our circumstances and necessities to that honorable body. It would probably be utterly impossible for our government, even if the people were unanimously inclined upon the subject, to act with sufficient energy and promptness to secure a delegation in our next U. States' Congress. Yet we have reason to believe that probably no exigency will arise for many years to come, in which the immediate and ultimate interests of the people of Oregon will more particularly need a delegate to represent their situation and wants, than the subjects which will probably be under debate during the next Congress. Our fellow citizens are all deeply interested upon the important subject of land claims. The United States' Congress, by its discussions and vote upon the subject of granting a certain portion of land to the early settlers of this country, as a remuneration for their perseverance and industry in rescuing this fair country from the unproductive state in which it had been hitherto held by its aborigines, sufficiently manifested its willingness and determination to make liberal donations of land to those who should live upon and cultivate the same for five consecutive years; and this manifestation induced thousands to emigrate hither, who would, had not this inducement been presented, never have left their quiet homes in the States. It now becomes our highest interest, if not our imperative duty, to ask Congress to allow us to possess this portion of land in the same form and under the same restrictions which our provisional legislature allows us to hold it. If an United States' government surveyor should be sent here, empowered with authority to survey this whole country, and thereby mutilate and dismember our choicest claims and give portions of them to our neighbors, the utmost dissatisfaction would ensue throughout the

whole country, and unending disturbance and litigation would be the unavoidable consequence. Consideration of this nature might be easily avoided, by simply requesting Congress to allow us to retain our claims in accordance with our own legislative enactments and our own surveys.

But a still more important subject presents itself for our attentive consideration and efficient action; a subject replete with grandeur of thought, and worthy of the exercise and employment of the noblest intellectual and physical powers of man—we mean the construction of a RAILROAD FROM THE ATLANTIC TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN. Our readers will perceive, by reference to our first page, the memorial of GEORGE WILKES to the Speaker and Representatives of the people of Oregon, praying for an expression of opinion from that honorable body in reference to the practicability of the proposed measure, and if thought practicable, asking for their co-operation. We doubt not every American citizen will instantaneously and cordially respond to this cheering invitation to assist in forwarding and accomplishing a project fraught with such desirable consequences. Fellow citizens of Oregon, you are now called upon to lend your voices and influence in giving an accelerated impetus to this grand and incalculably useful scheme for the advancement of human happiness and improvement. Will you forward the project, by calling neighborhood or county meetings, for the purpose of eliciting a hearty and universal response of feeling upon this absorbing subject, by passing resolutions approving the plan and requesting your representatives in our territorial legislature, to forward resolutions to the United States' Congress, as speedily as possible, expressive of the belief of the inhabitants of Oregon, that the project is practicable and ought to be immediately commenced. If our citizens and the next legislature would prosecute all necessary preliminary measures, calculated to give an expression of the views of the people of Oregon upon this momentous subject, and would next Spring despatch a delegate to the United States, to appear respectfully before the Congress following next winter's Congress, and there present the resolutions and proceedings of the people of this territory, respecting the practicability of the plan for a railroad to this country, we believe the consequences would be eminently happy in their nature. An augmented interest and feeling upon this highly important subject, would be created throughout the whole nation. A delegate from the Oregon legislature or people, sent to memorialize Congress for the construction of a railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean, presenting his petitions perhaps from five hundred persons who have traveled over the road, and who maintain the practicability of the scheme, would do more towards accomplishing the great work, than twenty long flowery speeches from the ablest statesmen in America. The fact that such a delegate to Congress from Oregon had arrived, would be instantaneously heralded and emblazoned abroad by all the newspapers throughout the United States, and advocates innumerable would arise to defend the measure. We hope our fellow citizens will act timely and effectually upon this subject and speed the work.

## Loss of the U. S. Schooner Shark.

It is with the deepest regret we learn from a well authenticated source, that the U. S. Schooner Shark has lately become totally wrecked at the mouth of the Columbia river. We have been favored with the privilege of making the following extract from a private letter received by an individual in this city, written by a person of veracity living at Vancouver. We hope in our next number to be able to give a detailed account of this truly unfortunate affair. We have delayed our paper to a late hour, expecting further news concerning this wreck, but none has yet arrived.

EXTRACT OF A LETTER DATED, Vancouver Sept. 14, 1846.

"This morning we heard from Mr. Fisk, who has arrived from Fort George, that the U. S. Schr. Shark is totally wrecked. She got on the south spit nearly two miles outside the cape. After cutting away the masts and doing all she could in vain, the boats were sent on shore with as many of the crew as they could carry; those on board hoisted a light and kept firing guns through the night. The light could barely be seen by our people on the cape, and if they had been on the water in a canoe, they could not have seen it at all, and there would have been no chance of reaching them. At day light, a number of men could be seen on the poop; shortly afterward, two boats were seen approaching the vessel, as they soon left after getting to the vessel, and all hands were seemingly removed from the poop, there is little doubt the crew all reached Point Adams, on the Clatsop shore, in safety. Her B. M. S. Modeste's first cutter leaves tomorrow with a present supply of provisions. At the hour the canoe was leaving, Mr. Peem writes, "the wind is now blowing fresh from the S. W. and the sea is making a fair breach over the unfortunate Shark."

**SUBTREASURY BILL.**—The subtreasury bill has passed both houses of Congress and become a law.

**RULES TO BE OBSERVED BY VISITORS IN AN EDITOR'S OFFICE.**—Sit down quickly. Don't touch the poker. Say nothing interesting. Engage in no controversy. Don't smoke. Keep six feet from his table. Hands off his papers. Eyes off his manuscript. —N. O. Commercial times.

From the Missouri Republican of 13th March.

**FOR OREGON.**—The Brig Henry, Captain Kilborn, cleared at Newburyport on the 21st ult. for the Sandwich Islands and the Columbia river. The Henry has a number of passengers for Oregon.

For the Oregon Spectator

## SECURE YOUR POTATOES.

**MR. EDITOR.**—When I first arrived in Oregon several years since, I was informed that cold weather was a stranger in the land—that the grass remained green during the winter, and that frost never visited the Willamette Valley; consequently, when potatoes were laid in for winter consumption, they were stored above ground. This answered very well until January arrived, when the thermometer fell 5 degrees below zero, and every potatoe in that part of the settlement was frozen. Since that, my potatoes have always been stored where the frost could not injure them. As we have had very mild winters for these three past years, many persons may be led to think we never have had frost in Oregon. I make this communication to put farmers on their guard. Store your potatoes where the frost, should we have any, cannot injure your crop.

## DELEGATE TO CONGRESS.

**MR. EDITOR.**—After having coolly and calmly considered the subject, and after having consulted many of my friends who seem to concur with me, we have generally arrived at this conclusion, that the time had come when this community should claim its right to be heard in our national assembly by a representative in the capacity of a territorial delegate to congress. This officer is the mere creature of an act of Congress, and has no constitutional privilege other than that given him by that body. He cannot vote, it is true, because his constituents constitute a moiety, unequal to the constitutional number ascertained to entitle a member to full privileges under the last apportionment, and because the territory he represents has not yet been admitted as one of the federal Union; but when once admitted by Congress, he may offer bills and resolutions and speak to the propriety of them or any other subject that may come before that body. He may wait upon committees and have such measures engrafted in bills as will suit the interest of his constituents—may visit the heads of departments and shape their instructions to the government officers who may be sent there, so as to have the views and interests of this community carried into effect, and thus promote our general welfare; and if he be energetic and attentive, he may so control or shape the land bill making grants to the citizens of Oregon, and now pending in Congress, as to prevent much litigation, illfeeling and collision between neighbors, growing out of a want of that kind of information which can only be imparted by an individual who is immediately interested and accountable to the community who sends him, and who will expose the defects which have been made so apparent to our frontier inhabitants, even to the loss of land claims, with large improvements on them, under the late pre-emption system. For example, when the boundary question is settled, the government may proceed to make absolute grants to those who are at the time of the passage of the bill, occupants; confining them to the tract they then resided on, without regard to private arrangements between citizens here: or it may be granted to the individual who made the first improvement on a particular tract, disregarding, as was the case in one of the pre-emption laws, all previous transfers of occupants; or it may give the fee simple to the person making the first improvement after the passage of the law, without regard to previous improvements, as was unfortunately the case in the last pre-emption, thus giving opportunities for evil and designing persons to avail themselves of omissions or oversights, which creep into acts of Congress from the absence of a representative from the immediate district where the grants are to be made.

The present system in relation to the surveys of the public lands should be changed where it applies to Oregon; or our proffered grant, at least to some of us, may prove a curse instead of a blessing: as, for example, it may separate the house and the field of equal value, giving one or the other to our neighbor: the lines should by all means comport with those agreed on between the

ish minister who has just approved himself to England the "inevitable man" of the crisis and of the time; who comes into Parliament strong enough to declare himself independent of his own party; strong enough to demand the subordinate co-operation of his rival party leader; strong enough to plant himself directly in the path and full before the face of the whole landed interest of G. Britain; strong enough among the people, even while wielding already a majority of ninety-seven in the House of Commons, to threaten his opponents in the House of Lords with a dissolution of Parliament; a minister, in a word, swaying the whole public mind of England as no other minister has swayed it since the day when, in 1762, the elder Pitt "stood alone" in the cabinet and refused peace even on terms of humiliation to the allied branches of the House of Bourbon!

"Such is the minister who 'cannot say' that our old hopeless offer of compromise ought to have been refused" when presented anew, as Mr. Polk presented it, from the new stand of negotiation which he has assumed. And this is the presentation of the case which the Senate of the United States hesitates and delays to sanction!"

The Union here complains that the Senate hesitates to sustain the President in the offer of compromise on the basis 49, heretofore declined when he has presented that offer anew. This is, perhaps, speaking as plainly as the official organ could, under the circumstances, be expected to speak. It shows that the administration is prepared to make a treaty of boundary on the 49th parallel of north latitude, and that we have perfectly understood and correctly stated its position.

But it is argued that the President has taken a new stand, by proclaiming the "unwavering confidence of the Executive branch of this government in the validity and soundness of our title to the 'whole of Oregon'"—thus announcing by implication that any offer of compromise on our part, was just so much concession. It was from this ground, the Union says, Mr. Polk made his offer of compromise; an intimation that no settlement can be made, except on the basis of 49.

From the New York Sun, March 31.

## DESPATCHES FOR ENGLAND.

**MR. BIDWELL,** of the British Legation at Washington, has gone to Boston, to take the steamer to-morrow for Liverpool. It is now said that the last steamer took out directions to our Minister in London to inquire, through Lord Aberdeen, the precise views of the British Government, and whether Sir Robert Peel's allusion to the offer of the 49th parallel was intended to imply an approval of that line as a compromise; Mr. McLane being authorized to say that this government would receive that proposition favorably. The British Minister at Washington is said to have written to his government by the same packet, in favor of an immediate adjustment of the question. The April steamer is expected to bring a definite answer to these despatches.

**SPIRIT OF LIBERTY.**—Soon after the close of the French war in Europe, a boy was standing on one of the bridges that cross the Thames at London, with a number of small birds in a cage for sale. A sailor, who was passing, observed the little prisoners fluttering about the cage, peeping through the wires, and manifesting their eager desire to regain their liberty. He stood for some time looking at the birds, apparently lost in thought. At length, addressing the boy, he said, "How much do you ask for your birds?"

"Sixpence apiece, sir," was the reply.

"I don't ask how much apiece," said the sailor; "how much the lot? I want to buy all hands."

The boy began his calculations, and found they came to six shillings and sixpence.

"There is your money," said the sailor, handing out the cash, which the boy received with evident satisfaction at his morning's trade. No sooner was the bargain settled, than the sailor opened the cage door, and let all the birds fly away.

The boy, looking quite astonished, exclaimed, "What did you do that for, sir? you have lost all your birds."

"I'll tell you," said the sailor, "why I did it. I was shut up three years in a French prison as a prisoner of war, and I am resolved never to see any thing in prison that I can make free of." —*Youth's Cabinet.*