



THE SPECTATOR.

G. L. CURRY, EDITOR—N. W. COLWELL, PR.

Oregon City, October 29, 1846.

RESOLUTION passed by the Board of Directors of the Oregon Printing Association, at their meeting, Monday, Oct. 5th, 1846, and ordered to be inserted in the "Spectator" four times.

Whereas several subscribers to the "Oregon Spectator" have proffered pay for the paper in Oregon Scrip, which will not meet the liabilities of the Board—Therefore

Resolved.—That hereafter all persons subscribers to the "Oregon Spectator," be hereby informed that Oregon Scrip will not be received in payment for the paper.
Jno. P. Brooks,
Secretary.

Oregon City, Oct. 5th, 1846.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—We have received an exceedingly queer document from T. C. J., of Polk county; as we presume it was intended, we take it for a burlesque, but most certainly would question the propriety of its publication.

We did not receive the communication of O. C. S. until after we had issued the last number of the "Spectator." We can only refer our correspondent to the published proceedings of the public meeting, in relation to the subject matter of his inquiries, for the information he desires.

Some really beautiful stanzas, addressed "To Mary," were received too late for publication in this number; we shall take great pleasure, however, in giving them a place in our next.

THE EMIGRATION.—Those of the emigrants who came by the way of the Mount Hood road, have all safely reached the valley of the Willamette, and a large portion of them are already on their claims, busily engaged in promoting their comfort and welfare. Mr. J. W. Ladd's wagon was at the head of the line, and arrived in this city on the 13th of last month, at least two months in advance of any previous emigration. We have been favored by Mr. Barlow, with the subjoined statement of the number of wagons, &c., that have crossed the Cascade Mountains, by the Mount Hood road, during the present season. Five wagons only were abandoned between the Dalles and this point. The weather has been extremely favorable for the emigration, and still continues remarkably mild and pleasant for this late period of the year.

In regard to the remainder of the emigration, who are coming in by Messrs. Applegate and Goff's recently explored route, we can obtain no satisfactory information, further than they are as yet a considerable distance from the head of the valley. We have understood that several families have abandoned their wagons, and come in with pack animals; likewise, that two or three parties have started out, with provisions, &c., to meet the emigration. We have a rumor that one hundred and forty wagons, of the two hundred and fifty reported to have been on this route, have turned off and gone to California; this requires confirmation, however.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir, by your request, I herewith send you the number of wagons and stock that passed the toll-gate on the Mount Hood road. There were one hundred and forty-five wagons, fifteen hundred and fifty-nine head of horses, mules, and horned cattle all together, and one lot of sheep, the number not recollected, but I think thirteen.
Yours, &c.,
OCT. 22d, 1846. SAM'L K. BARLOW.

Since the above was put in type, we learn, by the arrival of a party of the Hudson's Bay Company's servants, from Fort Hall, that there are seven more wagons en route for this place, in the Cascade Mountains, being the rearward company of the emigration by the Mount Hood road.

DEPARTURE OF CAPTAIN HOWISON.—We were gratified last week, by a short visit from Captain Howison, of the late U. S. Schr. Shark. He informed us that with his officers and crew he would leave immediately for California, in the Hudson's Bay Company's Schr. Cadborough, which had been chartered for the purpose. Captain Howison, it is altogether probable, will be sent home, as soon as practicable, to meet the decision of a Court of Inquiry in relation to the loss of his vessel.

We know not what influence may be brought to bear upon such a court, but this we do know, that if its decision be just one, it will exonerate Captain H. entirely.

We hear of the election of fourteen delegates only, to meet in convention on Monday next, for the purpose of reorganizing Congress in relation to the condition of the Territory, viz.—six in Clackamas, six in Yamhill, and two in Linn City precinct, Twality county. Champoog and Polk counties have declined a representation.

THE OREGON BILL.

CLAIM JUMPING.

Various reasons induce us to believe that the "Oregon Bill," as styled, in the "bill for extending the jurisdiction of the United States to Oregon," which passed the lower house of Congress on the 19th of April last, is misunderstood, and the spirit of it entirely misconceived by a portion of our citizens. It is, but as its title declares it to be, "A bill to protect the rights of American settlers in the territory of Oregon until the termination of the joint occupation of the same." Even as qualified as its provisions are, and as limited as it is in its general character, the bill had not passed the Senate, and we have not had the least intimation that would lead us to the conclusion that it has become a law. Consequently any action upon our part, in view of the provisions of the bill and with the presumption that it is a law of the land, would be unwise, unjust, and most unwarrantable.

In reference to grants of land—one of the most important matters, and one of the first that should be regarded in such a document—we find that the bill is a mere nullity, for the fourth section of it, which relates to this subject, reads, "provision shall hereafter be made by law to secure and grant," &c., &c. That three syllable word "hereafter" is all important, and completely knocks into pi, as we printers would term it, the remainder of the section. These grants in futurity are consequently not available, and no power in this country, at least, can make them so. But the language of this portion of the bill is misinterpreted, and the spirit of it totally mis-judged;—it is simply an assurance—a guarantee to us that our rights in this respect will not be disregarded—that when the proper time comes we shall be put in possession of so much land, but not until the proper period shall have arrived.

We hear with pain that this misconstruction of the bill has been the occasion of acts which are extremely injudicious, to say the least, if not to qualify them by the harsher term of trespass. It must be borne in mind that we still live under the laws of Oregon Territory—the laws of our own making, and that we are still amenable to those laws, and may be so for an indefinite time to come. Will we not be sustained in the assertion that the people of this territory will stand up for the supremacy of the law—for the preservation of its majesty, and consequently its full and exact enforcement? We do believe that the citizens of this country are an order-loving and law-abiding community—that they will sternly and firmly oppose such acts as will tend to loosen the golden bond of society—by interrupting its good feeling and harmony.

For the life of us we cannot see wherein the claim-jumper is the least benefited by his course of proceedings. Is it the half of a lonely bachelor's claim that he is itching after, or the whole of a half-breed's, he "jumps" and records, and after such active exercise sits down with his hands upon his knees to await the uncertain transpiration of desired events. No man knoweth what the morrow may bring forth, and all his hopes may be but "goodly shadows in the summer cloud." But to him whose rights have been thus assailed, if not violated, such conduct must be a source of irritation and annoyance, and, perhaps, ultimate trouble and expense in establishing and securing his right. What then must be the inevitable consequence of all this? A feeling of distrust will spring up which will occasion a want of confidence in one another and in the power of the law. Are there not enough of factitious distinctions already in society? Why shall we not act as reflecting men? Why shall we neglect our duty in not pursuing the even tenor of our way with an unflinching trust in the wisdom and ability of our government, imperfect as it may be, which is the strong and only bond that holds us together as a civilized community?

By all our hopes of yet living in happiness beneath "the starry banner of the free," and seeing this our adopted country prosperous and great, we do conjure our fellow citizens to be true to themselves, to stand fast by the social compact, to countenance no wrong, let it come from whatever quarter it may, for "truth is powerful, and will prevail." Law and order, peace and good will to all men be our motto, and however so great the emergency, let us never espouse the cause of error.

"Truth crushed to earth shall rise again,
The eternal years of God are here;
But Error, wounded, writhes with pain,
And dies amid her worshippers."

DISGRACEFUL.—We are sorry to say, that we have been informed of some most disgraceful proceedings which recently occurred in Champoog and Yamhill counties. We are shocked to state further, that not satisfied with their late acts of brutality, the same parties are to meet again, in a few days, to commit a greater outrage upon good order, decency and law, by engaging in a kind of prize-fight. Is there no law in those counties? If there be, where are the regularly constituted authorities to enforce it?

We would refer our subscribers to a short article in the last number of the "Spectator," entitled "Rail Call." Why won't subscribers answer to their names?

The Cascade Mountains.

A NIGHT ON MOUNT HOOD.

"A chosen band in a mountain land,
And a life in the woods for me."

It was a delightful day in August, we had made our noonday halt at a brooklet that babled away at a very pleasant rate, between two ridges of the mountains, and in an hour's ride therefrom we entered the dense and extensive forests that fill the ravines and cover the heights of the Cascade Mountains, with the exception of the snow peaks, even to the valley of the Clackamas. We had been travelling over monotonous prairie land—through wild, wide, sandy wastes, with their prolific growth of the sombre-looking *Artemisia*, with nothing to relieve the eye, or dissipate that sense of sickening sameness that day after day weighed upon our spirits. How gladly then did we hail the change, and gallop into the bosom of the majestic woods! The breath of the forest was laden with the scent of agreeable odors. What a feeling of freshness was diffused into our whole being, as we enjoyed the "pleasure of the pathless woods." In every glimpse we could catch of the open day, there, above and beyond us, were the towering heights, with their immense array of sky-piercing shafts.

Up, up, to an altitude fearfully astonishing—the ascent is steep and difficult, but there are many such ridges of the mountains to be crossed before you can descend into the flourishing valley of the Willamette. Down, down, into the deep, dark, and silent ravine, and when you have reached the bottom of it, by its precipitous descent, you may be able to form an idea of the great elevation which you had previously attained. The crossing of the Rocky Mountains, the Bear River range, and the "big hill" of the Brule's, with the Blue Mountains, was insignificant in comparison to the passage of the "Cascades." Here is no natural pass—you breast the lofty hills and climb them—there is no way around them—no avoiding them, and each succeeding one you fancy is the dividing ridge of the range. How profound is the solitude of those old and far surrounding woods, which is only invaded by the dash of the mountain torrent, as it plunges downward to its more tranquil course in the distant valley.

The sun had sunk to the horizon, and was arraying itself in a magnificent drapery of crimson colored clouds, as we emerged from the forest into a beautiful little glen, even upon the breast of snowy Mount Hood. Here was the fountain-head of rivers; and the foaming waters were rushing madly along, as if impatient to meet the embrace of ocean. Above our heads, the peak of the mountain towered sublimely: its snow glittering in the departing rays of the sunlight.

The day died slowly away, and our camp-fire was soon in a cheerful blaze, for the icy breath of the mountain came down upon us with such a chilling effect, as to huddle us together within its comfortable vicinity. We could not but be impressed with the novelty of our situation. Here we were beside an object that had been visible to us at least a hundred miles distant; an object of interest, for we knew that beyond it was our new home—the country of our adoption, and that when we reached it, our long and wearisome journey would be, comparatively speaking, at an end. We were but seven souls, deep in the heart of the great wilderness, far from kindred and friends, and the enjoyments of civilized life, yet we had an unshaken confidence in that protecting Power in the hollow of whose hand we stood.

Our forms were soon stretched at length, and our heads pillowed upon the bosom of that mountain that had been with us for so long a period an object of desired attainment, for the "day had touched the hem of night's garment, and tired and fatigued sunk into her concealing lap;" and there she was, enthroned upon Mount Hood, in her ebon mantle, "in her starry crowns, with eternal quiet upon her countenance."

A friend, under the signature of "A Kentuckian," writes us upon various subjects effecting the interest of the territory; among other topics, he speaks of the "white man's liquor traffic with the natives" in appropriate terms, and refers to the evil consequences it will inevitably occasion, if not put a stop to. In relation to "claim jumping," he very correctly observes—

"Although a neighbor may, as it is commonly termed, jump your claim, be not alarmed; comply with the requisitions of the Organic Law, and you are safe, as regards your claims, Government will do you justice."

WAR NEWS.—A friend kindly permits us to make the following extract from a private letter, dated, Independence, June 1st, 1846.

"General Taylor has had hard fighting on the Rio Grande, and more expected daily; he has as yet been victorious, and, no doubt, will continue to be so. Gen. Scott has gone on.

"Col. Kearney has been ordered to Santa Fe with three hundred dragoons and thirteen hundred volunteers, and more shortly to follow. Our town is all excitement and bustle."

The attention of our readers is called to new advertisements in adjoining columns.

THE NEXT LEGISLATURE.

In a few weeks the Legislature will convene, and enter upon the discharge of its duties. There will probably be but little business to transact, and we may expect a short session, which will, doubtless, be agreeable to all. As a general thing, the world is governed too much, and particularly in the States, there has been a great deal of unnecessary legislation. What a marvellous conglomeration of law does the legislation of the last twenty years present; and for what good purpose. Law has become almost a mere matter of precedent. The judge forsakes his independence of mind, and permits himself to be governed in his decisions by the manner in which such and such a case, of a similar character was decided, years and years ago, by Chief Justice so and so. Though the spirit of the law be broken, so long as there is a deference paid to the letter of it, the judge can find a good security behind the invulnerable shield of the almighty precedent.

We are told that "necessity is the mother of invention," and in all legislation should the want—the necessity be particularly the occasion of the law. There be many queer inventions in these our modern times, and many that necessity can in nowise be induced to suckle. And it is altogether likely that some of the queerest of these inventions have been given to the world in the shape of laws. Laws should be made for the benefit of man, yet how many are enacted and administered to his positive disadvantage and injury?

Our remarks may not be applicable to the legislation that has occurred in Oregon Territory; but we must confess that the enactments in relation to the currency have a "terrible squinting that way," and were we disposed to find fault, we might come down, with some considerable force, and a good deal of propriety, upon the hair-splitting niceness, at least, of the legislation in other respects. However, the members of the next legislature will assemble on the first Tuesday of December next, and give their deliberations and judgment to such measures as are best calculated to promote the welfare and happiness of their constituents.

PUBLIC MEETING

IN CLACKAMUS COUNTY.

Pursuant to adjournment, on Thursday, the 15th of October (inst.) the meeting was called to order by the chairman, and the proceedings of the previous meeting were read by the secretary.

On motion of Mr. McCarver, the following resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That our present mercantile condition be considered and proper representations made to the mercantile community in the States.

On motion of Mr. Taylor, the following resolution was adopted.

Resolved, That our delegates are requested to ask Congress to make liberal appropriations in land or otherwise, for public schools.

The resolution that was offered at the last meeting, instructing our delegates to provide ways and means to forward our petitions to Congress without sending a delegate, was taken up, and on motion of Mr. White, the following was offered:

Strike out all after the resolving clause, and insert the following—

That the petitions and memorials be forwarded to Washington by a special messenger, chosen by the American citizens of Oregon, and that our delegates be instructed to provide for his election.

On motion, the resolution and amendments were laid on the table.

The resolution of Mr. D. Stewart, as amended by Mr. Taylor, and informally passed by at the last meeting, was taken up, and on motion of Mr. White, was amended as follows:

And that the proceeds of each town site be appropriated to the use of the inhabitants of said town for public schools and internal improvements in said town.

P. G. Stewart offered the following amendment to be inserted after town sites.

"So far as they can do the same without interfering with private rights."

After some warm discussion, the meeting took a recess until 7 o'clock P. M.

Met pursuant to adjournment. On motion, the several gentlemen in attendance from other counties, were invited to participate.

The discussion then commenced, and was continued with animated zeal until a late hour, when Mr. McCarver offered the following amendment. "And that private rights be construed to extend to all improvements made on town lots"—which was lost. The previous question was then called for and seconded. The house decided that the previous question should be put. The amendment of Mr. P. G. Stewart was then adopted.