

For the Oregon Spectator.
KIND WISHES.

'Tis pleasant at evening calm minutes to be
In a bark gently sailing away o'er the sea,
When deep tinted clouds, their drapery unfold,
And look in the sunset like masses of gold;
When the sea bird dinks on the billow's wide breast
Her beautiful pinions then folding to rest:
But oh! 'tis by far more delightful to know,
Kind wishes are with us wherever we go.

'Tis pleasant to rove in the forest's green bowers,
To stroll in the shade at noon tide's mild hours,
To gather the rose from its thorn covered stem
And twine it for beauty, a gay diadem;
To lily repose by the stream's grassy side
And watch the white water all placidly glide.
But oh! it is far more delightful to know
Kind wishes are with us wherever we go.
Baker's Bay, April 1847. LOTHARIO.

For the Oregon Spectator.

Ms. Editor—In the Spectator of the 4th of February last, you affirmed many things respecting the immigrants which were erroneous, and among others, that their delay was to be ascribed to "their own mismanagement." You were pleased to refer to "some of the immigrants who have reached here," as your authority for making these statements. Having been one of the immigrants, and knowing that no one of the statements was consistent with the truth in the case, I felt myself constrained to controvert and disprove them by the presentation of facts, which you were not able to meet with opposing facts. But it would seem from an article in the last No. of the Spectator, that although you "have no disposition to allow the columns of the Spectator to be used merely for the purpose of personal controversy and invective," yet "on the score of strict justice and impartiality," you felt yourself constrained, in the absence of better arguments, "to admit a violently personal article into our columns," containing the epithets "fools," "liars," "traitor," "assassin," "liar," "dog," "cheat," "swindler," together with many others of a kindred vocabulary.

The general object of the article is to injure my private reputation; and its logic amounts to no more than this: J. Quinn Thornton is a very bad man. Ergo, The southern route is a very good one; and "none but liars assert or fools believe otherwise." It may not, however, be very easy for every class of mind to see the connection in this case, between the sequence and the consequence; although it may appear very clear to you and your learned and erudite contributor, whose production is strikingly characterized by that elegance, grace, beauty, and at the same time dignity of style, for which the pure and chaste literature of Billingsgate is so justly celebrated.

Having recently arrived in the country, and occupying, as I do, the important position of Judge of the Supreme Court of the Territory, it may not be improper under the circumstances, to refer to some papers in my possession, which will be shown to any gentleman who may express a wish to see them.

1st. A petition sent to the late Thomas Reynolds, in the latter part of the autumn of 1840, then Governor of Missouri, praying for my appointment to the bench of the Circuit Court; and stating that "his deportment and character as a man, and his legal attainments, and studious habits as a lawyer, qualify him for discharging with usefulness to the state and satisfaction to the people, the important duties devolving upon one holding that office."

This petition is signed by many gentlemen, residing in Palmyra, Mo. and the neighborhood of it. Among these I may mention S. D. South, the cashier of the bank; John P. Rutter, clerk of the circuit court; Jerdon J. Montgomery, sheriff of the county; Maj. Gen. D. Willock; and John Taylor, Esq., who is the father of Hiram Taylor, Esq., on the Rickreall, and who also is personally acquainted with me.

2d. A petition upon the same subject from the following brethren of the bar in the circuit in which Palmyra (the place where I resided) is situated; to wit: Samuel Glover, Uriel Wright, William Holmes, David C. Tuttle, Richard E. Darrah, Alexander L. Slayback, O. H. Allen, Edwin G. Pratt, John J. Slossor, B. P. Major, F. A. Knowlan, and P. Williams. These my brethren of the bar, after practicing with them a number of years, were pleased to say, "his studious habits, devotion to business, and equanimity of temper, qualify him in an eminent degree for the judicial station."

3rd. A petition signed by many of the members of the Missouri legislature in both its branches, in which they say "Mr. Thornton's devotion to business, studious habits and legal learning would commend the wisdom of your choice, and justify your confidence."

This is signed by the following gentlemen, among many others; to wit: Stephen Glascock from the senatorial district in which I lived; and Z. G. Draper, and John Lear, representatives; and by Gen. Cornelius Gilliam, now residing upon the Rickreall.

4th. Letters upon the same subject from William Wright, Register of the land office at Palmyra, Mo.; William Blakey, Receiver; John Smith, President of the Mo. State Bank, St. Louis; and Sterling Price, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

5th. Commissions—one from the Governor of Missouri, and another from the Governor of the State of Illinois, the latter under date of February 5th 1842.

6th. A letter from Dr. Richard Eells, of Quincy, Ill., sixteen days before I started, and dated April 2nd, 1846. He says "As you are about to leave us under circumstances rendering it almost certain that we shall never on this side of the grave enjoy each others society; permit me to say to you that I deeply regret the loss of your society with us." Again he says "You will please accept as a small memento of my regard, a volume of Gilman's Digest."

7th. A letter from Mr. Thomas Pope of Quincy Illinois, under date of April 16th, 1846, two days before I entered upon my journey, to his brother in law in this city. He says "Mr. Thornton will not be a dead weight in your new republic on the score of intelligence and morality, but will be of that class who will tend to elevate and make better."

8th. Letters to Dr. Marcus Whitman, Wallawalla.

I may observe, in addition, that Mr. Wheeler of this city, and the Messrs Cutting on the Clackamas, a short distance below, were with me at the time of my leaving Quincy, Ill. where I resided from April 1, 1841, to April 18, 1846. These gentlemen were witnesses of the many highly flattering attentions bestowed upon me; and of the kind regards expressed by hundreds of my fellow citizens at the time of my entering upon my journey.

Here, I believe that I might rest, so far as regards the many untruths contained in the article written over the name of David Goff, who, it is proper to remark, is so exceedingly illiterate as not to be able to write his own name or even to read it when written for him.

When I entered the columns of the Spectator, I was influenced solely by the desire to correct erroneous statements in order that the public might have the facts upon which to predicate opinions for themselves. I did not believe that the Spectator was ever open to the admission of such productions of inestimable grace and beauty, as adorn the columns of the last number of that sheet; nor did I know that the Editor could under any circumstances, be capable of consenting to prostitute the only press in Oregon to the lowest scurrility and personal abuse; and of permitting his sheet to be filled with epithets gathered from the vocabulary of a London fish market. In both, however, I am equally mistaken. And as it does not lie in my way to answer such pieces; and having neither the talent nor the taste for throwing epithets at either an editor or his contributors; I can only say that I refer to the immigrants themselves for the truth of my statements.

It has often been said that "you must fight the devil with fire." It is my purpose however, not to fight him at all. David Goff's friends have brought disgrace upon themselves by writing the article in question; and I shall not wipe it off by giving to them or theirs the factitious importance which only a reply can confer. Nor will I suffer myself to be drawn into a contest with one where either victory or defeat must necessarily be equally fatal to a decent appearance, since, in either case, I must be blackened by soot and ashes. Nor can I believe that it is necessary thus to contend. It may be so where devil wars upon devil; and it is doubtless true where kindred spirits meet; as where one ruffian encounters another.— But I cannot be persuaded that in a difference of opinion between gentlemen upon any question affecting a great public interest, such as the one as to the best road by which to enter this valley, it is at all neces-

sary, in order to a suitable expression of opinion, to resort to Billingsgate slang and scurrility respecting individual reputation, or to epithets which have nothing in common with the inspiration of the pages of an American classic. It is at least certain that "Michael the arch angel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said the Lord rebuke thee."

Having made these remarks, I now take leave of a sheet in which you admit "violently personal articles," "on the score of strict justice and impartiality;" nor will I permit any of my friends to take any notice of any further attack upon my reputation, though filled with slander and epithets as scurrilous as the article in the last No. of the Spectator, which was sufficiently gross to disgust every man of sense and refinement on the one hand, and to satisfy the coarsest appetite, and the most vulgar taste on the other. And notwithstanding the malicious epithets that blot and blur your columns, and the fierce temper of exposed wrong doing which they exhibit, it is as easy for me, being master of the facts, to be master of the issue of the contest to which these facts relate, if I chose to engage in it, as for those who are the masters of the arms to be masters of the authority of the state. My reputation, therefore, is in my own hands, and I have not only the ability to repel the untruths, but I have the courage, also, to despise the vain efforts and impotent malice of both those who invent, and of those who publish slanders upon my reputation.

I am, as ever, &c.

J. QUINN THORNTON
Oregon City, May 4, 1847.

For the Oregon Spectator.

Mr. Editor—Having seen in the last No. of the Spectator, an abusive article, the general object of which seems to have been to injure the reputation of Judge Thornton, we deem it but an act of justice to say that we arrived at Quincy Illinois, about twelve of the clock Friday the 17th April, 1846. We remained there waiting for him to start until some time on Saturday. During that time his house was thronged with persons of merit and intelligence, manifesting the most flattering attentions and expressing the kindest regards. After crossing the river, and being advised by us to lighten his load, Mr. Thornton unpacked his Law Library and made arrangements to have it shipped (via) the Pacific. During the time thus occupied, a number of ladies and gentlemen crossed over from the city to spend with him and lady the time thus occupied.

We continued to travel with him until Tuesday. His wagon broke down about 12 miles on this side of Palmyra (Mo.) which would cause a delay of several days, and made it necessary for him to return to Palmyra to purchase larger boxes and have new axletrees made, we being anxious to get to Independence as soon as possible, drove on.

COLUMBUS WHEELER,
JONES CUTTING,
CHARLES CUTTING.

Oregon City, May 4, 1847.

For the Oregon Spectator.

YAM HILL, MAY 8, 1847.

Mr. Editor—An article in the last number of the Spectator traducing the character of Judge Thornton, suggests the propriety of this communication. I was on the bank of the Mississippi river on Saturday 18th April 1846, with my wagon and team at the time of his departure from the city of Quincy, and I have seldom or perhaps never witnessed attentions so marked as were then shown to him upon that occasion by a great number of warmly attached friends.

Twelve miles on this side of Palmyra Judge Thornton's wagon was broken, and it became necessary for him to delay some days in order to have larger axletrees made; I assisted him to unload. At this time Mr. and Mrs. Towler old friends of Mr. and Mrs. Thornton and residing in the immediate neighborhood of Palmyra, were with them accompanying them in an open carriage a part of the way. Judge Thornton returned to Palmyra for larger boxes, and I reluctantly drove on.

CALVIN W. ISH.

SINGULAR MARRIAGE.—A widower at Camden who was not very young, became smitten with a young and beautiful girl,

and married her. A short time after, the son of this man by a former wife, became also in love, not with a younger person, but with the mother of the father's new wife, a widow lady still in the bloom of life. He offered himself, and soon the young man and the widow were united in the bonds of matrimony, so that in consequence of these two connections, a father became the son-in-law of his own son, and the wife not only the daughter-in-law of her own son-in-law, but still more, the mother-in-law of her own daughter; while the husband of the latter is the father-in-law of his own mother-in-law, and father-in-law to his own father. Singular confusion may arise, if children should spring from these peculiar marriages.

CONDITION OF THE LATE EMIGRANTS.

We would call the attention of the authorities of our government here, to this class of our citizens. They have come here without any previous correct knowledge of the situation of the country, expecting to find the greater part of the farming lands unappropriated, and that they would be able soon after their arrival, to get grants for such portions as they might select. In this they have been disappointed. They find the greater part of the country taken up by large grants of from 3 to 20 leagues. Many of them are too poor to buy, even at a very low price, and in order to get land, must go some distance beyond the present settlements where they will be exposed to all the dangers and difficulties incident to the frontiers of a new country, unless they will be permitted to occupy the mission lands, which are now the public property of the United States. We would therefore suggest to the authorities of our district, that written permission be given to the late emigrants to settle on the mission lands, and occupy the mission houses until they can make other arrangements.—California Star.

FROM MEXICO.—The Washington Union gives the following synopsis of certain decrees recently issued by the Mexican Government, which have been received at the Navy Department:

1. A decree of August 28, declaring all Mexicans, between the ages of 18 and 50 years, under obligation to take arms in defence of their country whenever they shall be required so to do.

2. A decree of same date, declaring free for one year the importation into any part of the republic, and sale in it, of muskets, carbines, and, in general, every species of war-like arms and projectiles, without the payment of any import duty; and declaring that the Government will purchase of the arms and projectiles referred to, such quantities as it may require, at such prices as may be agreed upon with the importers or holders.

3. Another of the same, declaring an extraordinary contingent of thirty thousand men, to be contributed by the several States in the following proportions:

Mexico,	8,200	Michoacan,	1,080
Jalisco,	4,000	Vera Cruz,	1,000
Puebla,	3,800	Durango,	600
Guanajuato,	3,600	Chihuahua,	500
St. Luis Potosi,	3,800	Sinaloa,	580
Lacatecas,	1,000	Agua Calientes,	280
Queretaro,	600		
Oajaca,	2,900		30,000

It will be perceived that Yucatan is not enumerated in the above list.

This decree declares that citizens who volunteer will be required to serve only two years, but men levied or drafted will be required to serve six years.

Another of the same date, pardoning all who may have deserted from the regular army, provided that they give themselves up within three months, and permitting them to serve in such corps as they may select.

5. A decree of August 31st, issued through the Department of State, declaring that all officers, in civil or military employment, who shall refuse, without such services as may be required of them during the war in which the republic is at present engaged, shall be dismissed from their employments, and declared incapable of being employed hereafter as military officers; being liable, moreover, to the punishment already provided by law for such offences as they may have committed.