

is twenty to one but they will corrupt and infect you. Therefore be wary and shy in choosing and entertaining, or frequenting any company or companions; be not too hasty in committing yourself to them; stand off awhile till you have inquired of some (that you know by experience to be faithful) what they are; observe what company they keep; be not too easy to gain acquaintance, but stand off and keep a distance yet awhile, till you have observed and learned touching them. Men or women that are greedy of acquaintance, or hasty in it, are oftentimes snared in ill company before they are aware, and entangled so that they cannot easily get loose from it often when they would.



## THE SPECTATOR.

CHAS. L. QUARY, EDITOR—W. P. HUBBON, PRINTER.

Oregon City, June 24, 1847.

**To Correspondents.**—A communication has been received relative to the public meetings recently held in this city concerning "claim jumping." The press of work necessarily precludes its publication until our next, when we shall take occasion to make some remarks upon the matter in question, as we consider ourselves committed upon the subject of "claim jumping" and are determined to contend against it, at all times, to the uttermost, in whatever shape it may present itself.

"An Office Seeker" and "The proceedings of a public meeting in Clatsop County," shall appear in our next paper.

"K. T." shall have place in our next.

**Our acknowledgments** are due the officers of the Columbia, Bratus and Toulon, and to Benj. Stark Jr. Esq. for late papers from the Islands and California.

**Written in the Oregon.**—We learn from Mr. Stark, supervisor of the Toulon, that the late winter at the Oregon has been one of uncommon severity. Much snow has fallen and in consequence of the severity of food and bad weather, 6000 cattle have perished—a severe loss to the settlers. Flour was \$8 per barrel by wholesale when the Toulon left, and could be retailed at \$12.—*Polynesians.*

We regret much to see the above in print, because it is incorrect and calculated to have an injurious effect upon the interests of Oregon. As Mr. Stark was not in this country at any time during the past winter it is presumable that he cannot speak from personal knowledge. His informant, whoever he might have been, was woefully in error. It is true that our past winter was "one of uncommon severity," but instead of 6000 cattle having perished, if a computation could be made, it would be found that our loss in this respect did not exceed six hundred head.

Flour was retailed throughout the season, as it is at present, at the H. B. Company's store in this city at three dollars per hundred pounds.

We look to our brother Jarvis of the Polynesian, for his love of truth, to correct the erroneous statement he has published.

**ET** We find nothing in later papers to justify the rumour, which we publish in another column, concerning the extension of the jurisdiction of the United States over this country and the appointment of Judge Semple as Governor. We are still strong in hopes, however, that the last Congress did not adjourn without having made the necessary provisions for us, and look for the reasonable gratification of our wishes in this respect, during the present summer.

**The Election.**—A. L. Lovejoy Esq. has a majority of 45 votes over Geo. Abernethy, Esq. for Governor, with Lewis county yet to hear from. The result is doubtful. In addition to those we gave in our last paper the following persons have been elected Representatives; J. W. Nesmith, M. Ford and — St. Clair, for Polk County; J. Robinson for Clatsop county; Mr. Plomondon for Lewis county. As soon as all the returns are in we shall publish a corrected table of them.

We are really much obliged to the various County Clerks for the prompt manner in which they have complied with our request to forward us a copy of the election returns in their respective counties, in time for publication in this paper, as not one of them, with the exception of Champeog county, has deigned to pay the least attention to our request.

**President's Message.**—As soon as we receive this document we shall spread it before our readers with all possible despatch.

### Sketches of Oregon, No. 2.

#### Tax Process of Government.

In our last sketch we gave the historical facts connected with the organization of Government in Oregon, and we now propose to show some of the various achievements of the popular spirit in its progressive movements. We scarcely deem it worth while to give an abstract of the laws which were reported by the Legislative Committee and adopted by the people at the meeting of the 5th of July at Champeog, as they were subsequently amended and perfected. This committee, which is designated in the records as "Legislative," was composed of nine persons, whose names were Robert Moore, W. H. Gray, Robert Newell, Robert Shorten, A. H. Boers, T. J. Hubbard, David Hill, J. A. O'Neil, — Doughty. Their proceedings seem to have been characterized by the dignity and decorum becoming such a body and their conclusions evidently were not arrived at without mature deliberation. They worked in good, heart and faith, and although what they wrought was not faultless, still to them belongs the honor of having laid the foundation of our civil superstructure.

Of the Organic Laws, or Articles of Compact, the Land Law particularly, which was susceptible of great improvement, has since been amended, some highly objectionable portions of it having been repealed, and its spirit considerably improved. The immigration which arrived in the Territory in the autumn of '43 was very large and contributed materially in effecting alterations in the laws and the face of the country, which were altogether desirable.

In May, 1844, the people elected Peter G. Stowak, Osborne Russell and W. J. Bailey as Executive Committee, and P. H. Burnett, David Hill, M. M. McCarter, M. Gilmore, A. L. Lovejoy, Robert Newell, Daniel Waldo and T. D. Keiser, as Legislative Committee. From this period the record of public affairs assumed something like a regular and connected form. It is worthy of remark that the expenses of the Government from 1843 to 1844 were not defrayed by taxation as appears from the following extract which we make from the "Original laws":

"That subscription papers as follows be put in circulation to collect funds for defraying the expenses of this Government."

"We, the subscribers, hereby pledge ourselves to pay annually to the Treasurer of Oregon Territory, the sum affixed to our respective names, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of Government: Provided that in all cases each individual subscriber may at any time withdraw his name from said subscription upon paying up all arrearages and notifying the Treasurer of the Colony of such desire to withdraw."

The second Legislative Committee assembled at the settlement of the Willamette Falls, on the 18th of June 1844, and elected M. M. McCarter Speaker, and received the Message of the Executive Committee.— This was the first document of the kind that had its origin in Oregon and we refer to it with much satisfaction, not for beautiful diction nor elegance of composition for it was plain even to homeliness, but for the sound views and correct policy it recommended. The Executive was ably seconded by the Legislature, which gave a good account of itself; it was truly a working body and accomplished a large amount of business in a short space of time, for it adjourned on the ninth day after it convened. It went immediately to work and adopted measures to effect a more complete organization of Government. It vested the executive in one person—regulated the Legislative power—revised, in fact established a judiciary—made enactments for the creation of revenue and among many other good things amended the Land law, one of the sections of which, that was abolished, we give our readers as a kind of curiosity and it will prove a matter of wonderment that it could ever have been a part of the law.

No person shall be entitled to hold such a claim upon City or Town sites, extensive water privileges, or other situations necessary for the transaction of Mercantile or Manufacturing operations and to the detriment of the community: Provided that nothing in these laws shall be so construed as to affect any claim of any Mission of a religious character made previous to this time of an extent of not more than 6 miles square."

The Legislature convened again, agreeably to adjournment, on the 16th of the following December, and held a session of eight days in which they transacted much important business.

The bill of incorporation for Oregon City was passed at this session, likewise a bill for the erection of a jail, which was afterwards built in Oregon City and since destroyed by fire.

In the spring of 1845 Geo. Abernethy Esq. was elected Governor and the laws, as revised and enactments passed by the Legislature of that year, have mostly been published and are of too recent a date to require any illustration from us.

We have forbore to speak upon one subject and cannot close without alluding to it. In 1844 there were some of very respectable standing and influence in the community who advocated the idea of an independent form of Government, from an honest conviction doubtless, that it was best calculated for the country in the isolated situation in which it was placed and the peculiar circumstances under which it existed. But

happily for Oregon the idea did not gain strength nor adherents, for Americans generally in the country looked anxiously forward, as ever, to the time when they would again be citizens of the United States and yet remain Oregonians.

#### Highly Important News.

**Rumored extension of the jurisdiction of the U. S. over Oregon and appointment of Governor—Successful progress of the war with Mexico—Affairs in California—European and general intelligence, &c. &c.**

By the arrival of the H. B. Co's bark Columbia, Captain Duncan, from the Sandwich Islands, we are placed in possession of files of the Polynesian and Sandwich Islands News to the 29d of May inclusive. Benj. Stark Jr. Esq. came passenger on the Columbia. He is almost direct from California, where the latest intelligence from the United States had been received. The President's Message had been received there through Mr. Norris bearer of despatches from the United States, but had not been given to the public entire in consequence of the small size of the journals there. From Mr. Stark we learn that it was rumored in California that the jurisdiction of the United States had been extended to Oregon by the passage of a bill similar to that of the late Dr. Linn, and that Judge James Semple, U. S. Senator from Illinois had received the appointment of Governor of Oregon—that Government may be expected to arrive here in all of next month. Our readers will bear in mind that we have nothing late enough by newspaper to confirm or disprove these rumors.

The U. S. S. Frobie, Mr. Norris, passenger, bearer of despatches from the U. S., arrived at Monterey April 23d. The dates from Washington are to the 15th of January. An extract from the President's Message says of Oregon:

"It will be important, during your present session, to establish a territorial government and to extend the jurisdiction and laws of the United States over the Territory of Oregon. Our laws regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes east of the Rocky Mountains, should be extended to the Pacific Ocean; and for the purpose of executing them, and procuring friendly relations with the Indian Tribes within our limits, an additional number of Indian agencies should be authorized by law. The establishment of custom houses, and of post offices and post roads, provision for the transportation of the mail on such routes as the public convenience will suggest, require legislative authority. It will be proper, also, to establish a surveyor general's office in that territory, and make the necessary provision for surveying the public lands and bringing them into market. As our citizens who now reside in that distant region, have been subjected to many hardships, privations and sacrifices in their emigration and by their improvements have enhanced the value of the public lands in the neighborhood of their settlements, it is recommended that liberal grants be made to them of such portions of these lands as they may occupy and that similar grants or rights of pre-emption be made to all who may emigrate thither within a limited period, prescribed by law."

He further recommends the addition of an efficient sea-steamer to each of the foreign squadrons.

No definite news from the seat of war had reached Monterey. There were reports of battles received one of which was to the effect that Santa Anna had been defeated and that General Valencia was in command.

We have the following—says the Polynesian—from an intelligent correspondent at Monterey:

"There are great rumors here respecting an expedition of 1200 or 1500 men expected by way of Sonora, under the command of General Bustamante. I can form no idea of the truth of the report, out it is certain that many of the American officers believe it, and I see that some military preparations are making."

Chihuahua had surrendered to the forces under General Wool. The army, it seems, entered the city without resistance, the American flag was saluted by the citizens, and after a few hours had elapsed, the American officers were invited to partake of a splendid dinner, which had been prepared for them by the Chihuahuans. "That, we should say, was rather a new mode of capturing an enemy's town."

President Polk had offered peace to Mexico on condition of ceding California, for which \$10,000,000 in four instalments would be paid—the Mexican tariff to be reduced one-half—American vessels to enter her ports on the most favorable conditions—Ministers of each country to reside at Mexico and Washington, and sundry minor clauses, of which the most important was that Parades should be exiled.

Santa Anna declined to negotiate on these terms until the will of the Mexican Congress, to be convened December 1st, 1846, should be known. The American Cabinet, considering this a virtual rejection of offers for peace, resolved to prosecute the war vigorously. The American armies were to advance rapidly upon Mexico, and no longer to pay for supplies—to make the Mexicans feel the real evils of war. A demonstration was to be made on Tampico. Active preparations were making by the Mexicans for resistance, by arming the rancheros.

Santa Anna had strongly fortified San Luis—had there 52 pieces of artillery. In Nov. 2000 troops—the advanced guard of Gen Patterson's corps of 5000 men, took possession of Tampico. 25th of November,

an American steamer with munitions of war was lost off Vera Cruz. The Armistice of Monterey had been disapproved by the United States, and Gen. Taylor ordered to advance. The State of Durango was being laid waste by Indians. Tobacco was blockaded. On the south, Chiapa was threatened by the Governor of Guatemala, whom the Mexican prints charge with being incited to hostilities by the United States. The Mexican Congress, after a hot debate had voted by 51 against 30, that of the properties held in mortmain, sufficient should be immediately sold to raise \$15,000,000, for the expenses of the war.

President Polk in his message to Congress of the 6th of December, had asked for an appropriation of \$28,000,000 and 80,000 men, to conquer Mexico, unless she at once made peace, on the sole condition of paying the expenses of the war, the United States retaining in pledge until full payment, all the Mexican territory which their troops have occupied.

By the latest advices from Mexico, we learn that Major General Scott has assumed command in chief of the American forces, having landed at Tampico with a reinforcement. The column of invasion under General Taylor had advanced as far as Tula, on its way to effect a junction with Scott. Their united forces, amounting to 25,000 men, were then to march upon Vera Cruz, which was to be attacked by sea at the same time. Com. Perry was in command of the squadron, which had been reinforced by the North Carolina and Pennsylvania, line-of-battle ships. The Mexican forces were concentrating in the State of Tamaulipas, to repel the expected attack.

Santa Anna had left Potosi, at the head of about 25,000 badly clothed and poorly fed men, to obstruct the advance of Gen. Taylor. His troops had been long without pay, and he was destitute of funds, the clergy having had sufficient influence to defeat the law authorising the sale of church property and a loan of 5 per cent. to come from their funds. Immediately after his leaving Potosi, a very heavy snow-storm occurred in the mountains, from which it is supposed his troops must have suffered greatly.

Information had been received at New Orleans that the British steamer Tay on her last trip from Vera Cruz to Havana, took out three hundred letters of Marque, with naturalization papers, conferring the privileges of Mexican citizens upon all who would sail under them. This information comes in an authentic form. The letters of marque were expressed from Mexico on the evening of the 30th ult., and reached Vera Cruz in time for the Tay to take to Havana.— Letters from Havana were also received, announcing the arrival of the letters of Marque. One writer is of opinion that the Spanish Government will not permit them to be used in the port of Havana; yet as the naturalization papers offer extraordinary privileges, it is probable that some of them may slip out upon commerce despite the vigilance of the authorities.

On the 28th of October the city of Tobacco was bombarded by Com. Connor with a squadron of small craft, and nearly destroyed. The object of the attack was the capture of nine of the enemy's vessels, which was accomplished.

**CALIFORNIA.**—We have dates to the 24th April. The weather had been very promising for crops, hides and tallow. Captain Sutter was expected to raise from 25,000 to 40,000 bushels of wheat this season.—[A wild expectation we should say.—Ed. Spect.]

Several parties of emigrants have been brought in from the mountains, through the exertions of Passed Midshipman Woodworth. Forty persons have been rescued from death, but the sufferings of others have been terrible.

The German bark Matilda had arrived at San Pedro, with a cargo of Mexican goods from San Blas. Reported Gen. Scott, with 20,000 men to be on the march from Tampico to Vera Cruz, and that Com. Connor had a fleet of 24 sail to co-operate with him.— Gen. Wool was marching upon Sonora, and the inhabitants had in public "juntas" adopted resolutions not to resist the United States troops.

Col. Russell, with fifteen men, had left for the States overland. Gen. Taylor had arrived at San Luis Potosi at the head of 15,000 troops, on his way to Mexico. President Polk had made a requisition upon all the States for their quota of men, amounting to 120,000, to serve during the war.

Every post in California was now garrisoned by U. S. troops, and the entire country