

A. C. W. Shaw

Rec 527

Oregon Spectator.

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its way."

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For the Oregon Spectator.

Mr. Editor—In the Spectator of the 27th May last, I find published the proceedings of two separate meetings composed of citizens from Clackamas and other counties in this Territory—and to assist in correcting the false impressions that are thereby attempted to be promulgated and thrown over the characters of a large number of individuals in this community, and over the virtue and intelligence generally of the people of this Territory, is my purpose in troubling you with this communication; and regretting the occasion that requires it, yet justice to myself and to my fellow countrymen demanding it, I go freely to work, begging patience and impartial decision. With regard to the first meeting the "respectable" (small) "body of Citizens of Clackamas," with a few from other counties, assuming to themselves all that is noble and virtuous, and under the pretext of sustaining the laws of Oregon, (as will be shown hereafter,) they have in their plenitude of wisdom, and by the power granted them under the courts of Judge Lynch, seized hold of one of the departments of our government to wield it as their mighty wisdom or vacillating caprice may seem to dictate. Accordingly "a committee of five was appointed to select twelve whose duty it shall be to investigate and adjudicate between disputing claimants" to lands in this Territory, and notice given to all those concerned in what they term without qualification claim jumping, "to desist in their present course," embracing all those who may have had the fortune to locate on lands to which an adverse title may be asserted by any other individual upon any pretence whatever, but without even alluding to the time or place of adjudication; probably the old despotic practice has been adopted, to wit:—that the defendant is not worthy of, nor has a right to an audience. This course, Sir, is taken by some of our over wise champions of morality and justice to sustain the dignity and supremacy of our constitution and laws, upon the pretence of as they allege a "disposition recently manifested to set at defiance the laws of the land and to violate the good will and peace of community by trespassing upon land claims." Who of our citizens, I ask, has committed a trespass upon a land claim, or have any of them resisted the law or refused to abide its decisions? None I would say. Can it be known that a trespass has been committed or the guilty person really discovered without an adjudication or decision? Certainly not. Then it must be inferred that the adjudications and decisions of the new court must be kept from the public eye as not safe for the inspection of community, for we find no particular person charged or case cited, but all that portion of our citizens implicated who do not see proper to subscribe to these proceedings; yet this far they must be granted as discovering their decisions, that they have determined against a certain class of claims, in denying the sufficiency of our land law by branding them with the title of "evasion or subterfuge." This then is the manner in which these wise heads and pure and philanthropic hearts attempt to sustain our social system and the good order and peace of society by placing themselves in the occupation of the judicial department and predetermining the judgment of the law—and saying if not in words by their position and action, that there is not honesty and manly virtue enough in this community to carry out and sustain the operations of our laws. "The movement now in progress assailing the rights of citizens" and "a want of moral principle and an utter disregard of social obligation," are assertions put forth by that august assembly that are wholly uncalled for in this community—unless perhaps to prepare the minds of the people for that "occasion to mob law and violence" for which a few personages, prime movers of these proceedings, labored so hard to produce and hoped so soon to accomplish. But has it come to this, so suddenly in Oregon, that the officers and court of Judge Lynch must be called upon by some of our modern Cæsars and models of purity and virtue to sustain and prop up a corner of our cherished compact, upon the pretence that there is too much degradation, want of moral principle and want of intelligence in the population of Oregon to sustain our republican form of government and carry out its equitable and salutary provisions. Judging from the spirit of these proceedings, strangers would readily conclude that such a crisis had arrived even in our most populous

neighborhood. But fellow citizens and countrymen, I am confident that your judgment and action will soon counteract this impression and show to the world that freemen are capable of self government, and of sustaining republican institutions unswayed by the operation of mobs, despite the opinions and action of those who may think stronger forms of government necessary for the protection of their assumed rights and privileges; despite the attempt to add by force to our law additional privileges that could only be available by individuals of sufficient wealth to hire, or "moral principle" to obtain mercenaries from the court of Judge Lynch to enforce: and despite the magic eloquence and towering war speech of a certain attorney, or his sophisticated definition of the rights of freemen and of good citizens, much less his display of so great powers of comparison put forth to excite the populace to disgraceful acts of violence, in order to accomplish certain decisions which the present very equitable and just land law does not probably warrant him in expecting for his clients before the proper tribunals. Verily from his manner one would naturally judge that a shower of golden tinctured dew drops must have passed before his acute vision and excited his fancy to such a fit of philanthropy, or that Judge Lynch's school has been the shrine at which he worshipped and from which he drew his civil jurisprudence. It may here be proper to remark that I together with many of my fellow citizens was present at the meeting on the 19th, where we remained silent spectators of its doings; and to the honor of by far the greater portion of that assembly, they did not participate in the proceedings of the evening. I am not unconscious that in speaking thus freely I may wound the feelings of a few individuals in this community; but I cannot refrain from speaking out when I see a procedure attempted to be put in force that would in its tendency affect and destroy my rights as a private citizen: a procedure abridging the freedom and decisions of our civil tribunals by establishing a mock judiciary, and at the same time by a vote in open meeting carefully concealing the names of the twelve men appointed to fill that honorable station, thus to try the legal rights of citizens without a hearing and without even knowing who their worthy peers have been, and probably after the fashion of the olden time, first execute judgment and afterwards try and pass sentence as occasion or conveniences might require. But freemen reared under free and republican institutions too well understand those "inalienable rights" so dear to their hearts, to suffer them to be subverted or even tarnished by the poisoned thrusts of selfish monarchists or the uplifted paw of the lion's whelp. Then which I would say is the more effectual course to sustain our constitution and laws, that pursued by those who place themselves under their protection and quietly and peaceably await and abide their decisions without murmuring or complaint, relying implicitly upon the uprightness and virtue of their fellow citizens engaged in their administration for their equitable and just rewards, or the conduct of those whose hearts reflecting upon their own visions (lead them to fancy that all around them "display a want of moral principle") would resort to the policy of breaking those laws by establishing independent courts of judicature upon the ground that the laws under such circumstances are not sufficiently strong to secure them in their rights. Let the judgment of an uncorrupted community decide. Scarce a twelve month has elapsed since, as I am informed, a very respectable American citizen was carried upon a plea of trespass from his claim (which he has selected from the unincumbered domain of Oregon Territory) to Fort Vancouver and there without the form of trial or commitment, was incarcerated within the prison walls of that establishment. A similar farce no doubt would have been

played off at Oregon City a short time since, were it not for the spirit of that great genius the Goddess of Liberty that must ever pervade the hearts of all true Americans.
G. W. BELL.

For the Oregon Spectator.

Mr. Editor—In case my fellow citizens should grant me their suffrage and elect me to an office, say a Justice of the Peace, Representative or Governor, and when duly elected I proceed to take and subscribe the oath as per Articles of Compact. Now sir, every citizen of the United States and subject of Great Britain knows when he subscribes the oath that the laws of the United States and Great Britain forbid, prohibit and punish any of the citizens of either government to establish a distillery in an Indian country. They also punish with heavy fines and penalties any person who establishes a grocery, or brings any spirituous liquors into an Indian country for purposes of trade. A citizen of these governments has a right to and can bring liquor for his own private use into an Indian country, but to establish a distillery is absolutely prohibited. What I wish to know is how I can consistent with my oath of office and my duties as an honorable and loyal citizen or subject, proceed to give a license to "any person or persons" to make and sell what I know to be prohibited and forbidden by the laws of my country.
AN OFFICE SEEKER.
June, after Election, 1847.

For the Oregon Spectator.

Expression of Lewis County.
We the undersigned citizens of Lewis County, highly approving of the sentiments expressed at the Public Meeting of the citizens of Clackamas and other Counties, held at Oregon City on the 14th May, 1847, do hereby declare our entire concurrence with the resolutions passed at said meeting, and our intention to unite, heart and hand in supporting the same.

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| John R. Jackson, | Lorenzo Deala Brooks |
| J. J. Heath | Mahlon Brock |
| Wm. F. Tolmie | Peter Bercier |
| M. McDonald | T. Canlo |
| R. Slocum | Lewis Bercier |
| Walter Ross | Joseph St. Germain |
| Charles Wren | Joseph Cunningham |
| Thomas Linklater | Simon Plamondou |
| John Hammond | Etien Goydel |
| F. W. P. Tyrrell | Louis Delaines |
| John Ross | Pier Charles |
| John Edgar | Samuel Y. Coop |
| D. E. Savage | Josiah Milorn |
| Edmund Sylvester | Lyman E. Byard |
| Levi L. Smith | Jacob Woolley |
| M. F. Simmons | Samuel Hancock |
| G. Bush | Jean B. Chelifoe |
| D. Kindred | M. Bernier |
| D. D. Kinsey | A. Langlois |
| Jesse Ferguson | Michael Lotnoir Pire |
| John R. Kindred | P. St. Germain |
| Samuel B. Crockett | M. Lotnoir Fills |
| Benj. Gordon | R. Laplante |
| Isidore Bernier | Julian Bernier |
| Ignace Sozie | G. B. Roberts |
| Sidney S. Ford | Robert Logan |
| George L. Wunch | |

Lewis County, O. T., June 11th, 1847.

For the Oregon Spectator.

CLATSOP, JUNE 1, 1847.
Mr. Editor—The citizens of Clatsop county respectfully forward the following for publication.

The citizens of Clatsop county met at R. W. Morrison's to take into consideration what measures should be taken in reference to the unlawful introduction and sale of ardent spirits in this county. The meeting was organized by appointing Col. J. Taylor to the chair and W. H. Raymond, secretary. W. H. Gray Esq. stated that the laws were put at defiance. Jos. Caples stated that an assault had been

attempted while in the discharge of duty. On motion, Resolved, that a committee of three be appointed, to lead a resolution for the purpose of obtaining signatures to form an association for the maintenance of the supremacy of the law in relation to the unlawful introduction and sale of ardent spirits. Jno. Robinson, Thos. Owens, Joel Welch, Committee.

Your committee to take into consideration the condition of our country in relation to the unlawful traffic in intoxicating liquors and report a resolution to the next meeting.

In view of the repeated violation of the laws of Oregon in the introduction and sale of ardent spirits in our country, without first taking out the requisite license, and in view of the alarming and dangerous character of the liquor traffic, your committee would recommend the adoption and immediate execution of the following resolution:

Resolved, That we the undersigned will hold ourselves in readiness to aid the authorities of this county both in our person and property, to maintain the supremacy of the law in preventing the unlawful introduction and sale of intoxicating liquors in our county.

- Report accepted—adopted by obtaining signatures.
- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Jno. Robinson | Rev. L. Thompson |
| Thos. Owens | Rev. E. Fisher |
| Joel Welch | Capt. Jno. Brown |
| Geo. Summers | Sam'l Gardiner |
| W. H. Gray | Jno. McCord |
| S. H. Smith | " " |
| J. Caples | " " |
| B. C. Kindred | " " |
| J. D. S. Harrison | J. Taylor |
| Wm. T. Perry | A. Condit |
| " Hobson | A. H. Thompson |
| " Doaks | A. C. West |
| " Mc Daniel | H. H. Hunt |
| " Webb | E. Hunt |
| " P. Gilliam | S. B. Hall |
| R. W. Morrison | H. Martin |
| Calvin Tibbets | O. C. Kelley |
| David Ingles | F. Baker |
| J. Tuller | A. A. Woodlee |
| Rich'd Holton | N. A. Brown |
| L. Tracy | Wm. Wiley |
| C. A. Sandary | " " |
| A. Phillips | " W. Raymond |
| H. B. Polley | Chas. Caples |
| F. Ketchum | |

Resolved, That the proceedings be forwarded to the Spectator for publication.
J. TAYLOR, Chairman.
W. H. RAYMOND, Sec.

A DIVISION IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.
—"Strangers must withdraw." "Division: clear the gallery. Withdraw." "Nonsense; no; it's quite ridiculous; quite absurd.—Some fellow must get up. Send to the Carlton; send to the Reform; send to Brooks's. Are your men ready? No; are yours? I am sure I can't say. What does it mean? Most absurd! Are there many fellows in the library? The smoking room is quite full. All our men are paired till half-past eleven. It wants five minutes to the half-hour. What do you think of Tronchard's speech? I don't care for ourselves; I'm sorry for him. Well, that is very charitable. Withdraw, withdraw; you must withdraw."
"Where are you going, Fitzheron?" said a Conservative whipling.

"I must go; I am paired till half-past eleven, and it wants some minutes, and my man is not here."
"Confound it!"
"How will it go?"
"Gad, I don't know."
"Fishes, eh?"
"Deuced!" said the under-whip, in an under-tone, pale and speaking behind his teeth. The division bell was still ringing; peers and diplomatists and strangers were turned out; members came rushing in from library smoking room; some domestic calls just arrived in time to lead their passengers in the waiting room. The doors were locked. The mysteries of the lobby are only for the initiated. Three quarters of an hour after the division was called, the result was known to the exoteric world. Majority for ministers thirty-seven.
Never had the opposition made such a bad division, and this, too on their trial of strength for the session. Everything went wrong.—Lord Milford was away without a pair. Mr. Ormsby, who had paired with Mr. Baring, never came, and let his man poll; for which he was infinitely accused, particularly by