

# Oregon Spectator.

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its way."

Vol. II. Oregon City, (Oregon Ter) Tuesday, Aug. 5, 1847. No. 14.

### Oregon.

The bill to organize a U. S. Territorial Government in Oregon failed for want of time at the close of the Session of Congress. We do not know that this is to be regretted. Its passage would have made a dip into the Treasury for several thousands of dollars for the salaries of the Territorial Governor, Secretary, District Judge, Indian Agents, &c., for whom a Military escort would probably have been demanded, with an outfit very likely. Of course, the Treasury must bleed next winter, but even a brief respite is of consequence just now, when Uncle Sam's strong-box is assailed on all sides with a desperate energy utterly disproportioned to the amount laid in it. The Oregonians appear to be governing themselves very well, and doing well. They have all along evinced a sobriety and common sense about the 'Oregon Question,' so called, which does them great credit. In case the war-dogs had plunged the United States and Great Britain into hostilities respecting the sovereignty of that territory, it was pretty generally agreed that they would formally declare themselves neutral in the contest, agreeing not to cut each other's throats but to await the result of the contest and be governed by it.

We wish Congress had barely taken time to establish a Port of Entry at the mouth of the Columbia and appoint a Collector. The British have the start of us in the trade of that territory, have more capital, wider connections, and in some respects cheaper goods; but the collection of duties on British fabrics entered there, while ours were admitted free, would powerfully aid to turn the scale. Although the navigation of the Columbia is free to the Hudson's Bay Company and all British subjects trading with them, we understand of course that the British are not authorized to import goods, and sell them to Indians and others South of 49 degrees free of duty. The failure of Congress to extend our Revenue Laws thither is therefore a needless National injury.

Mr. Polk we learn, had his batch of officials for Oregon all ready to send to the Senate had the bill organizing the Territory passed. We believe the Governor of his choice was a young man named Rowan, of Kentucky. If we don't intrude, we would like to suggest the name of Col. Richard M. Johnson for that office. Under the circumstances, it is a post of responsibility and honor, and should be filled with some man who has not all his reputation to make.—Col. Johnson has faults, but he has had very great experience in legislation and public affairs, and ought to be able to render good service in organizing an embryo State. We understand that, since his retirement from public life, his health is entirely restored, his constitution reinvigorated, and that his intellect is much brighter than it was a few years ago. We believe his appointment as Governor of Oregon would be warmly approved on both sides of the Mountains.

By the way, we hope the Territorial organization will not annul the laws of Oregon hitherto passed, especially the following, which might serve as a model for the best State in the Union, viz:

*AN ACT to prevent the introduction, sale, and distillation of ardent spirits in Oregon:*

1. That if any person shall hereafter import or introduce any ardent spirits into Oregon, with intent to sell, barter, give, or trade the same, and shall offer the same for sale, trade, barter or gift, he shall be fined the sum of fifty dollars for each and every such offence, which may be recovered by indictment, or by trial before a Justice of the Peace, without the form of pleading.

2. That if any person shall hereafter sell, barter, give or trade, any ardent spirits of any kind whatever, directly or indirectly, to any person within Oregon, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of twenty dollars for each and every such sale, trade, barter, or gift, to be recovered by indictment in the County Court, or before a Justice of the Peace, without the form of pleading.

3. That if any person shall hereafter establish or carry on any manufactory or distillery of ardent spirits in Oregon, he shall be subject to be indicted before the County Court, as for a nuisance; and if convicted, he shall be fined the sum of one hundred dollars; and the Court shall issue an order to the Sheriff, directing him to seize and destroy the distilling apparatus, which order the Sheriff shall execute.—*New York Tribune, Aug. 26, 1846.*

### Biographical Sketch of Gen. Taylor.

For the following sketch of the military services of Gen. Taylor, we are indebted to the Nashville Orthopolitan. Gen. Taylor, is a Kentuckian by birth and is said to have been born in 1790, which would make him 57 years of age. According to the Orthopolitan, he entered the army in 1806, immediately after the attack on the Chesapeake, and has been in the service of his country from that time to the present. Having entered the army as a Lieutenant of Infantry, he had risen to the command of a company, at the beginning of the Last War.

For his gallant defence of Fort Harrison on the 4th September, 1812, President Madison conferred upon him the brevet rank of Major, and he is now the oldest brevet in the army. In 1832 he became the Colonel of the 6th Infantry; with this regiment he went to Florida in 1835, where he was always foremost in danger.

On the 25th December, 1836, Col. Taylor, at the head of a detachment of about 500 men, composed of parts of the 1st, 4th and 6th regiments of U. S. Infantry and some Missouri volunteers, met about 700 Indians, under Alligator, Sam Jones, and Coocoo-che, on the banks of the G-ke-cho-bee.

This battle was sought by the Indians, for the day before the engagement Col. Taylor received a challenge from Alligator, telling him where to find him, and bantering him to come on. Col. Taylor deeming nothing better, immediately pushed on at a rapid march to the expected battle-ground, fearful that the Indian might change his purpose.—The Indians had a strong position in a thick swamp, covered in front by a small stream, whose quicksands rendered it almost impassable, but Col. Taylor pushed through the quicksands and swamps in the face of a deadly fire from a concealed foe, driving the Indians before him.

The action was long and severe. The Indians yielding the ground inch by inch, and then only at the point of the bayonet. After three hours of bloody contest, the Indians were routed and pursued with great slaughter, until night. This was the last stand the Indians ever made, in a large body, and the only instance in which they voluntarily gave battle. Though Col. Taylor won the day, it was at the expense of 130 killed and wounded—more than one fourth of his whole force. Two Colonels, (Colonel Thompson of the 5th Infantry, and Colonel Gentry of the Missouri Volunteers) fell at the head of the troops.—Capt. Vanswearingen and Lieuts. Brooke and Carter also fell in the engagement.

During the whole of the engagement, Col. Taylor remained on horseback, passing from point to point, cheering his men to the conflict, and exposed to the Indian rifle every moment.

For this battle Mr. Poinsett, Secretary of War, rendered merited praise to all engaged, in his communication to Congress. The brevet of Brigadier General was conferred on Col. Taylor, and he was given the chief command in Florida; which he resigned in 1840, after four or five years' arduous and indefatigable service in the swamps and hammocks of Florida.

After his retirement from Florida he was assigned to the command of the 1st Department of the Army, including the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, &c., with his headquarters at Fort Jessup, Louisiana.

His position gave him the command of the "Army of Occupation," but the usage of the service would have justified the Government in assigning to that command either of the six general officers of the Regular Army, whose rank is higher than his.

But it may be fairly presumed that the high character, gallant services and great experience of Gen. T. aside from his geographical position, pointed him out as the appropriate commander of an army, which was to plant our flag upon the bank of the Rio del Norte.

Gen. Taylor is about 57 years of age; is

a man of much general information and an excellent and tried soldier; a prudent and skillful commander whose traits of character are, a wise precaution in providing for the hour of trial, and a fearless courage in battle.

### The Navigation of the Columbia.

Gen. Cass on Friday put a finish to the newspaper controversy respecting the free navigation of the Columbia, conceded without limitation of time to "the Hudson's Bay Company and all British subjects trading with them" by the late Oregon Treaty. It has been contended that this right would expire with the chartered existence of the Hudson's Bay Company in fifteen or twenty years, but Gen. Cass has settled this by producing the following authentic extracts from the charter of that Company. He moved the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate cause to be printed for the use of the Senate the following paper:

"Extract from the charter granted to the Hudson's Bay Company by Charles II. dated May 2d, in the two and twentieth year of his reign, being 1671:

"The third section provides that the persons named, and such others as shall be admitted into the said society, as is hereafter expressed, shall be one body corporate and politique, in deed and in name, by the name of *The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England, trading into the Hudson's Bay*, and them by the name of *The Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay*, one body corporate and politique, in deed and in name, really and fully FOR EVER, for us, our heirs and successors, &c.

"SECTION 12. And farther, we do by these presents for us, our heirs and successors, make, create and constitute the said Governor and Company, for the time being, and their successors, the true and absolute lords and proprietors of the same territory, limits and places aforesaid, and of all other the premises, saving always the faith and allegiance and sovereign dominion to us, our heirs and successors, for the same, to have, hold possess and enjoy the said territories, limits and places, and all and singular other the premises hereby granted, as aforesaid, with their, and every of their rights, members, jurisdiction, prerogatives, royalties and appurtenances whatsoever, to them the said Governor and Company and their successors FOR EVER, to be holden of us, our heirs and successors, as of our manor of East Greenwich, in the county of Kent, in free and common socage, and not in capite, or by knight service, yielding and paying yearly to us, our heirs and successor, for the same, two elk and two black beavers whensoever and as often as we, our heirs and successors shall happen to enter into the said countries, territories or regions hereby granted."—*N. Y. Tribune.*

**THE MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.**—The Union publishes a letter from Amos Kendall in regard to the Telegraphic lines already built and in progress, in which he urges the propriety and necessity of the General Government building a line between Washington and New Orleans, for the purpose of communicating with the Army. The letter adds:

"A line is in progress from Boston to Portland. Preliminary steps have been taken for the construction of a line from Buffalo to Detroit, and thence through Chicago to Milwaukee, a distance of about 800 miles, to be finished in fifteen months. The New-York and Washington company, having obtained the right of way along the railroads through New Jersey, are re-building their line on the direct route, and expect in two months to have up two good iron wires from New-York to Baltimore.

A line will be immediately put up from

Washington to Richmond, Va., if there be no direct line of way; and none is at present. An effort will be made to raise the necessary funds to carry a telegraph line through to New Orleans and Mexico.

The people of the West are becoming anxious in favor of the telegraph, and it is said that the necessary funds to carry a telegraph line through to New Orleans and Mexico.

**THE PEOPLE WHO LOOK FORWARD.**—On the occasion of opening the Miami Railroad, Professor Mitchell having been alluded to in one of the toasts, made a very eloquent and amusing speech. He said that after he had equipped himself to commence the survey of the Little Miami railroad, he called at the post office to see if there were any letters for him. There he met with Mr. — who inquired 'what he was up to now?' 'Why,' said the Professor, 'I am going to survey the route for the Little Miami Railroad.' 'Well,' said Mr. —, 'you are the d—est fool I ever did see!'—Mr. —, being present at the table, rose, and with great sang froid, said, 'I'll take that back, Professor; I'll take it all back.' Of course the company were much amused as well as edified by the occurrence. But this shows how trivial is the risk any man runs by opposing with all his might every project for the advancement of public improvement. When the utility of his position is established, he has only to say, 'take it back,' and his errors are forgotten.

PARIS, October 20.—The news brought by the Great Western is given in all the newspapers of this morning at considerable length. No comment, however, of sufficient importance to be mentioned, was made in any one Journal. It seems nevertheless, to be the opinion of the Parisian press, that the United States Government has made a great error in deciding that in invading any small levy contributions from the Mexicans. As long as the war will be way, the Mexicans, having no resources, or at least very little, were not ill disposed to the invaders, and in fact, rather welcomed them than otherwise. But now that the interests of the Mexicans will be, not promoted as heretofore, but cruelly injured, it is believed by the Parisian journals that the whole population will become most exasperated against the Americans, and will resist them by all the means in their power. In that case, it is calculated that grave difficulties, perhaps disaster and defeat are in store for the Americans, for they will have to struggle at one and the same time against all the difficulties that an army can encounter—against troops superior in number, against harassing guerrilla forces, against a hostile population, against a horrible climate, against the difficulties of a wild country, without roads and oftentimes mountains, against sickness, against want of provisions, and perhaps also, against the reluctance, the discouragement, the desertion of their own soldiers. Notwithstanding all this, it is not deemed for one moment, that if the Americans can get hand to hand with the Mexicans, the latter would get severely licked, however great might be the odds in their favor. Touching the annexation of the province of New Mexico, few observations are made, though some papers notice the vast addition it makes to the already gigantic territory of the United States. It does not appear to be thought however, that the annexation can, at present, be considered as definitive. That it was made without a single blow being struck, is unhesitatingly ascribed to the treason of the Mexican Governor.—[Correspondence of the European Times.

☞ The good conduct of the American troops in Mexico, and the military talent of Gen. Taylor, have elicited many eulogiums from the European press. Even the London Times, a paper usually very chary of praise of anything not English, speaks well of the valor and discipline of the American army, and particularly praises the despatches of General Taylor, as clear, succinct, and indicating talent, and what is not their least merit, wholly free from fiction and nonsense.