



THE SPECTATOR.

Geo. L. CURRY, EDITOR—W. P. HUDSON, PRINTER.

Oregon City, August 5, 1847.

To Correspondents.—We have concluded Mr. Gray's narration in this paper. We must say that its length was an objection, we dislike very much to have an article so long as to oblige us to divide its publication. It would be a favor if our correspondents, whom we are always glad to hear from, would bear in mind that "brevity is the soul of wit."

ROAD AROUND THE FALLS.—The construction of a road around the Falls, on the eastern bank of the Willamette, conducting from Main street to the granary above, is in contemplation; indeed a number of our most influential citizens are prepared to subscribe liberally towards the accomplishment of so laudable an object. It is a matter, however, that does not affect the interests of this city alone, but more immediately those of the whole upper country. At most seasons of the year it has been found extremely difficult and often not unattended with great danger to life and property to secure a convenient landing for produce and merchandise above the falls. Even at the present stage of water in our river, which must recede considerably yet, and at a time too, when it is most desirable that every facility should be afforded in the receipt of produce and the shipment of goods for points above this place, the descent can only be made by running the gamut of the rapids which, to say the least, is eminently hazardous. The ascent from the basin to the granary or to still water, is a herculean labor, expensive and attended with delay. Look at the subject in any light we will, a wagon road around the falls following the course of the river, and high enough above its level to be made accessible at all stages of water, promises great advantages, and beyond question will prove highly beneficial in increasing and accelerating business operations. As it must facilitate the receipt of produce, the farmer is directly interested in the undertaking, and should use his influence in its favor.

Subscription papers for the advancement of this enterprise may be found at the different stores in this city, and we confidently believe that in a short space of time a sufficient amount will have been subscribed to authorize the commencement of the work. Before the work is begun, however, it is contemplated to hold a general meeting of the subscribers for the purpose of properly contracting for the performance of the necessary labor.

SKETCHES OF OREGON.—Our last article under this caption has occasioned the following explanatory epistle:

CLATSOP PLAINS, JULY 3d, 1847.

G. L. CURRY Esq.—Sir, I notice in your Sketches of Oregon, No. 2, a paragraph indicating that it came from the laws drafted by the Legislative Committee, of which I had the honor to be one. Now sir, so far as that paragraph goes till it comes to the proviso, it is correct and the legitimate production of the committee, but the proviso was never penned by any one of the committee and never entered upon any paper belonging to their deliberations. It was produced at Champeog on the 5th of July, nearly at the close of all the proceedings and at the suggestion of Rev. Jason Lee, by Mr. LeBreton himself. Of these facts I have once given my testimony on oath, as also some two or three more of the same committee, we disclaim the proviso as belonging to our proceedings. It was introduced near the close of the proceedings in the shape of a resolution, considered at the time by myself and at least a part of my associates as binding only upon the citizens to respect the Mission's claims, which to the honor of the then settlers of Oregon has been kept sacred, for not one of them to my knowledge have to this day violated it in any way.

This correction and explanation I deem necessary to the cause of truth and which I hope you will give in your next article.

I remain yours &c. W. H. GRAY.

It is very proper, doubtless, that this explanation should be made public, yet it will be found a difficult matter we apprehend, to keep the proviso spoken of *expunged*; whether it was adopted informally or not, it was a law of the land until its repeal in 1844.

By the by, since the publication of our last sketch we have had various inquiries made us by letter and otherwise, as to what we meant and to whom we alluded in our remarks relative to an independent form of government. In reply we can only say that we meant nothing more than what we said, and we do not know that any good can be accomplished in making matters more personal than we have already made them.

Several of the young bachelors about town have been largely interested in the stove business recently. Cradles and bedsteads! what can it mean?

Oregon and the United States.

Before the publication of another paper it is altogether probable that we will receive news overland, from the United States. This intelligence cannot fail of being of an intensely interesting character, as it will acquaint us with the doings of the last Congress, the progress of the war with Mexico and settle public expectation as to an extension of the jurisdiction of the United States over this country. At present all in relation to this last most important matter is mere conjecture, although the few scraps of news and whisperings of rumor that reach us induce us to draw the most favorable inferences. We incline to the opinion that the first satisfactory information we shall have upon the subject, will be through the arrival in our midst of a portion of that authority which we have so long desired and anxiously looked for. We have several Indian reports already about a large mounted party of whites being on this side of the Blue Mountains, destined for this country, but then they are only Indian reports as we have said, and these people being aware of our expectations in this respect, might possibly undertake to gratify us at the expense of truth. If, however, the season should pass without the organization of a U. S. Territorial Government in Oregon, or the reception of any satisfactory intelligence relative thereto, it would be a grievous disappointment to our citizens generally and a most disheartening circumstance.

We cannot bring our mind to the conclusion that the culpable neglect of Government in reference to this Territory is to mark another year of Mr. Polk's administration. There could not be a decent apology for it. The speech-renowned question of possession is disposed of albeit at the sacrifice of principle and interest, and although the sweet smiles and happy circumstances of man-perfecting peace have been destroyed for a season by the dark clouds of terrible war, still it would ill comport with the powerful and magnificent character of a nation like the United States if she could not afford to extend to those of her citizens whose allegiance—whose love has been tested by almost every variety of circumstance, the blessings which our fathers risked their lives to win—the high protection of her laws.

In another column we have published an article upon Oregon, which we take from the New York Tribune, a paper inimical to the present administration. We give the article to our readers merely to show a phase of the public mind at home, and how near we came to the achievement of our wishes last year. Yet we cannot let the extract pass without remarking, that, however well we may appear to govern ourselves, we are heartily tired of our quasi independence and would yield it up rejoicingly because of our faith in something more substantial. Nor can we see what good could have resulted from the bare establishment of "a Port of Entry at the Mouth of the Columbia." It would have been highly inconsistent with the character of our Government to say nothing about the feasibility of such a measure. Taxation, though it may be hidden even so much by its indirectness, without representation or even its equivalent in protection and privileges, is a matter which our forefathers settled in the battle-field and we dare boldly say that their descendants have no disposition to question the justice or correctness of that settlement. Such policy may be in harmony with the principles of the party which the Tribune advocates, but it certainly is not founded in truth and its exercise would have any other tendency than the advancement of human rights. Give us that which of right belongs to us and then talk about taxation.

It is unnecessary to state perhaps, that the "model of law" which closes the Tribune's article was knocked into pi two or three years ago.

Our correspondent "Ploughboy," in another column, makes some good suggestions relative to the formation of an Agricultural society in Oregon. Such a society, properly conducted, would certainly be of great service to the Farmer, and do much in developing the high qualifications the country possesses in this respect.

HARVEST HOME.—Our farmers are now busily engaged in harvesting. The crops, generally, promise a more abundant yield than has been expected, indeed, notwithstanding the numerous disadvantages that have been experienced, we do not think the yield will be less than that of last year.

The regular August Term of the County Commissioner's Court of Clatsop County, will commence in this city on Monday week next. The Court will probably act as to the acceptance of the assessment of taxes for 1847, and if any correction is to be made therein it must be accomplished prior to the acceptance of the same. Therefore the citizens of our county should prefer their objections, if they have any, in time. The Assessor's book may be examined on application to the County Clerk, Geo. L. Curry.

We understand that Mr. Moss's Livery Stable accommodations are now very complete. His establishment is the only one of the kind in town, and merits encouragement.

Sketches of Oregon, No. 3.

AN INCIDENT AT WALLAWALLA.

We commenced these sketches, without any order whatever, simply to illustrate, however roughly, some portions of the history of Oregon—to endeavor to rescue from oblivion somewhat of that adventurous life that marked with interesting incidents its early settlement. Indeed we find there is much to chronicle in this way and we flatter ourselves that we may not be altogether unsuccessful in presenting them to our readers in such a shape as may ensure their partial preservation. When we have done this, our immediate object is achieved. As the history of this country is yet to be written, this revival of "things that were" may possibly be of some utility.

Fort Wallawalla was one among the earliest posts established west of the Rocky Mountains by the North West Company, and with the union of the two companies it of course passed into the control of the Hudson's Bay Company. With the change of circumstances incident to the more extensive occupation of the country, its importance has considerably diminished. A. McKinley Esq., the agent of the H. B. Company in this city, was in charge of Fort Wallawalla for several years, and it is our present purpose to speak of an exciting occurrence that took place there during the period of his administration of its affairs. The Indians around this post, the Nezperces, *Nkines* (our own orthography) and Wallawallas, were of a brave and warlike character; this latter feature has been considerably softened however by their contact with civilization. Still they are distinguished for their courage and the two former tribes for some traits nobler than this. Mr. Pambrun, the predecessor of Mr. McKinley, had experienced some harsh treatment from the Indians, having on one occasion been overpowered and bound by them in an endeavor to oblige him to give a higher price for their peltries, in which however they failed, as Mr. Pambrun's mental proved decidedly superior to his physical strength.

It was in the Summer of 1843, we believe, that a young chief, the son of *Serpent Jaune* (Yellow Snake) the principal chief of the Wallawallas, one day entered the Fort and appropriated to himself some article of little value—a piece of wood, if we mistake not, from a lot of which, lying there, the Indians had been in the habit of taking pieces whenever they chose for the purpose of making whip handles. This practice had been positively forbidden as the wood was of a particular kind and of service to the company. An expostulation with the young Chief by Mr. T—, a Clerk in the Company's employ, received a signal affront which occasioned a rencounter and the chastisement of the Indian. At this time there were perhaps half a dozen whites at the Fort and although the buildings were enclosed by "stockades" yet there was no means of effectually securing the entrances; the stockading was of recent construction and the gates had not been made, nor were they until a year after. Consequently it was, comparatively speaking, a defenceless position. Thus it was when on the next day the Indians, some of each tribe, crowded into the establishment to revenge themselves in the death of Mr. T—. Talking could achieve nothing, every consistent means was resorted to in vain to appease the turbulent multitude. The men belonging to the Fort were at work in the field even could their presence have effected any good in the issue. The Indians were brandishing their weapons and seemed to be fully aware of their superiority and disposed to exercise it in a summary manner. Already had Mr. McKinley suffered indignities and young T— was defending himself as well as he was able, with his back against the wall, when by one of those brilliant and lucky thoughts generally occasioned by great emergencies, the whole appearance of things was changed and the object of the savages defeated. It was at this juncture that Mr. McKinley suddenly darted from the crowd that surrounded him, into the adjoining room, the store-room, seized upon a keg of powder a steel and flint and returning instantly placed the keg in the centre of the room and knocked in its head—it was all the work of a moment. There he stood over the opened keg of powder, with a flint and steel in either hand and a dense mass of Indians around him.

"Now," said he, "kill him if you will," pointing to T—, "but that moment I kill you all. Two of us can die when there are so many *braves* to die with us."

The proposed slaughter was on too extensive a scale for the Indians, a panic seized them, they turned in dismay and rushed precipitately from the house. Thus by presence of mind and cool determination was the effusion of blood prevented and the authority of Mr. McKinley as chief of the post greatly augmented. It is needless to state that differences were soon adjusted to the satisfaction of all concerned.

There was quite an interesting display on yesterday, at the school of Mr. T. P. Powers, in this city, in an examination of the scholars as to their acquirements in the various branches of learning. It was a source of much gratification to the parents whose expressions of unqualified satisfaction at the advancement of their children are highly complimentary of the abilities of Mr. Powers as a teacher.

Nature.

BY G. L. C.

Spirit most perfect! on yon hoary hills,
Or mid the flowery fields and dusky dells,
As Summer's eve its poisonous instills
And serious thought in solemn silence swells,

We love to meet Thee, and to commune thus;
To gaze on charms we fear not to adore,
Whose loveliness can ne'er create in us
Desires whose satisfaction we deplore.

With dear delight our souls exulting roam
To Thee, and drink thy quiet beauty in;
Returning, rife with wholesome knowledge, home
For that probation future bliss will win.

Spirit Mysterious! whose bright beauty reigns
Thought's very soul throughout this mundane sphere,
Marvel on marvel well thy throne maintains
And dares the dreaming of the sage and seer.

Spirit sublime of ocean, earth and air!
Whose time-tried temple is the human heart,
Whose power existing, blessing, every where,
Unbinds the Cytherean zone of Art;

Though man forsake thee he shall come again,
Yield Thee joy-offerings from his heart so brave,
And nobly say in breaking error's chain,
Earth's lord no longer will be earth's low slave!

Spirit whose joy is smiles of sunny skies,
Whose couch is earth where spring doth sprinkle flow-
ers,

Whose voice comes whispering in the zephyr's sigh
Or fills with melody the woodland bowers;

Spirit of lovely being we are thine!
Thy pure perfectness are as sunlight gleams
To guide us onward to that light divine,
The undefinable of our dim dreams.

For the Oregon Spectator.

Mr. Curry—If it would not be trespassing upon your time and space, I would like to occupy a corner of your paper, to offer a suggestion or two to the farmers of Oregon. It is not my object to attempt to dictate; it is to stimulate the farmers of Oregon Territory to a laudible enterprise and zeal, to promote their interests, enhance the value of their products, lessen the labor and contribute to the comfort of the honorable profession of the FARMER.

As Wheat is the staple production of our country, and our soil and climate are admirably adapted to its production, it seems to me that the farmer should adopt that plan best calculated to produce the greatest quantity of grain, with the greatest certainty of a sure crop. Hitherto, the farmers in Oregon have cultivated their farms under peculiarly disadvantageous circumstances. The newness of the country, the necessities of the people immediately after arriving in the country, compels them to adopt such a course of farming as will insure bread for themselves and families the succeeding year; consequently the lands have to be broken late in the fall, after the rainy season has commenced, or in the spring of the same year in which the crop is to be harvested; therefore, a large portion of the farmers have had to sow their wheat while it was raining, and the land upon which it was sown very muddy, or wait until the month of April to sow the same, and in many of the fields even as late as May have they been compelled to sow wheat; consequently the crops thus produced have fallen short of rewarding the laborer, as was anticipated. Yet notwithstanding all this, wheat has been produced in a great abundance to supply the wants of the people and to afford a large surplus. Without further discussing the subject, let me here venture the assertion, "that there is no country on this continent where industry is more abundantly rewarded, than in Oregon." If this be true, let us stimulate ourselves with that industrious zeal and energy, so well calculated to make us happy and independent, or at least as much so as health and an ample competence will make us. Let us organize agricultural societies, meet together often and freely converse with regard to improving in the production of grain and the manner of cultivating our farms, devise plans, adopt ways and means to produce the greatest and surest quantity of wheat to the acre and for obtaining the highest and best price for the article when produced.

I am honestly of opinion, that the foregoing suggestions are worthy of investigation by the farmers of Oregon and the present crop now being harvested, speaks volumes to the producer. Let us for a moment investigate the cause of the deficit in the present crop. Was not the fall of 1846 as late as November uncommonly dry, so that the farmers could not well break their lands? Therefore, they were compelled to wait for rain. When the rain commenced, it was so heavy