

carried to Oregon and brought back again. If Mr. Calhoun has acted a treacherous part towards the people of Oregon, why is not publicity given to the letters here?—why are they not published in the United States, that those having the power to apply the remedy, may do it at the earliest opportunity? If such letters have been written, (and we have information that satisfies us on this head) the people, and particularly the southern wing of the locofoco party, have a right to demand their immediate publication. They should require their production at a day early enough to permit a reply to go to Oregon before the traveling to that country is closed—if, indeed, the design is not to kill political rivals at home, rather than from any very great regard for the settlers of Oregon.—*St. Louis Republican of April 1847.*



## THE SPECTATOR.

GEO. L. CURRY, EDITOR—W. S. HUDSON, PRINTER.

Oregon City, Oct. 14, 1847.

WE have received a copy of the president's message at last, through the politeness of Mr. William Kinney, who will please accept our thanks for this and other documents of a public nature.

**PETITION TO THE U. S. CONGRESS.**—On our first page will be found the petition from the people of Oregon to the Congress of the United States, as drafted by the committee appointed for that purpose by the Yamhill Convention. The committee are desirous that as many signatures should be appended to it as possible and exceedingly regret the limited period of time allowed for this purpose, as it is intended to forward the same by Captain Gelston, who, we understand, leaves in a few days. Those at a distance who read the document and approve of the sentiments it contains, can have their names affixed to it by sending this to the office. Any in our immediate neighborhood who have not yet signed the petition, can do so by calling at this, or Dr. Frigg's office.

WE have had the pleasure of perusing a letter from Capt. Wynton, of the H. B. Co's bark Cowlitz, to our bar-pilot, Mr. S. C. Reeve, commending him for the enterprising spirit displayed in the discovery and exploration of the north channel of the mouth of the Columbia.

WE are much obliged to the officers of the *Brig Henry*, for files of late California papers, which after a hasty reading we loaned to a friend who has forgotten to return them. This we regret, as we were anxious to say a few words in reply to an editorial in the *California Star*, of Sept. 4th, we think. As we have not the paper containing the article in question, our memory must serve us on the occasion. In speaking of the immigration of this year to Oregon, the *Star* editor attributes its increased numbers to a circular issued by Governor Abernethy and sent to the immigrants, which influenced them against going to California. After a good deal of trouble we obtained a reading of this said circular and we can assure Mr. Kemble that there is not one word about California in it. We expressed a desire to lay this document before the public, and was promised a copy for this purpose, but it has not been forthcoming. When we obtain a copy of it we certainly shall publish it, for the people have a right to know the official acts of their servants. Now we do not know that the document contains anything objectionable and are therefore at a loss to conceive why such profound secrecy should have attended its original publication. We have ascertained that it was printed at this office in last April, while Mr. N. W. Colwell was printer for the association, that it was done secretly cannot but be admitted as the editor of this paper was almost daily in attendance at the office and knew nothing about it. It is true, nevertheless, that the job-work of the office is out of the province of our duties as editor, and, as we were impressed in our youth with the force of the admirable maxim "mind your own business," we have ever strived to act in such a manner that our actions might show an acknowledgment of the injunction. We speak thus much because we have been charged with having lent ourselves to this secret service. We have no secrets, we never had any, nor do we wish to have any. We have strong faith in deeds and wish to be adjudged by them, and as our love for our fellow man cannot be easily subdued, we hope always to be found standing fast by the plain, open and simple truth, without any disguise, as the best agent wherewith to accomplish any good.

### The Yamhill Convention.

This magnificent concern, after a few convulsive efforts, expired about 4 o'clock on the afternoon of the 2d inst. It was buried quietly and without any ostentatious display being attended to its grave by thirteen disinterested men. We are not aware that the community suffer an irreparable loss in this catastrophe, but are rather disposed to consider that it checks with a deal of inward satisfaction at having rid itself of a "troublesome customer." Though it has been the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night to some, whom it unfortunately lead into the realms of Utopia, they vainly conceiving it a promise and a sign of innumerable "loaves and fishes," still we hope there is no occasion to despair even though chickens have been counted before they were hatched and the "spoils" must remain, tantalizing, in the future; we really think the country is tolerably safe notwithstanding this unlooked for calamity.

We regret that we have not the record of the proceedings of the Convention, with the various funeral sermons that were preached on the occasion of its dissolution. Indeed after the grand issue was lost a sovereign disgust seemed to actuate the mourners and they were above doing anything. The publication of their doings we presume was a subject that defied harmonious action. The memory of some of the circumstances that occurred has not entirely passed away, however, and we purpose to deal out a little immortality to some of these.

The Convention was called to order, about noon-day, by Samuel Parker of Clackamas and it appeared that five counties only were represented by delegates, as follows: two from Polk, six from Yamhill, five from Champoeg, six from Tualatin and five from Clackamas. M. M. McCarver was elected President, and the proper organization having been effected, it was decided to allow each county represented six votes, excepting Champoeg, to which was given eight votes. A member of the Clackamas delegation made an effort at the commencement of proceedings to adjourn to some future day in order to insure a representation from all parts of the Territory and a more complete expression of the popular will. The august assemblage would not listen to such a proposition, and it was killed off instantly; it proved a provocative of the "bile" of certain gentlemen, and was made to appear a kind of Pandora's box, from which issued numerous discords without the retention of a single hope. Then commenced the strife. Clackamas county was not anywhere; had not as much of the "bone and sinew" as other sections of the country were blessed with; and when another member of the same delegation moved that no recommendations to office in Oregon be made to the executive of the United States, there was a perfect furor of excitement. Clackamas was the object of ridicule and abuse, and was to be ridden over, rough-shod, whether she would or no. "She should not rule the territory no how." Oh, no! by no manner of means. Well, she pays her taxes regularly, and that's more than other counties can say. A distinguished friend of ours from Tualatin, came down on our poor county like a "duck upon a June-bug," and let off some "grand ideas;" and she ought to consider herself consequently, defunct, so she ought. Mr. Parker, however, administered a composing drought, in the shape of a common-sense speech, which seemed to settle our friend's stomach, as he afterward ceased cascading. The vote was finally taken, and showed the following result: in favor of the motion, Clackamas, undivided, came square up to the front with her six votes, assisted by seven votes from Champoeg, five votes from Tualatin, and one from Yamhill, making a total of nineteen votes. In the negative, Polk lead off with six votes, backed by Yamhill, with five votes, and one vote each from Champoeg and Tualatin, making, altogether, just a baker's dozen. The vote was announced, and the minority could not be comforted. Polk county retired from the convention, as did also a member from Yamhill. A committee was then appointed to draft a memorial to the congress of the United States, upon the wants of Oregon, and submit it to the people for their signatures. Thus suddenly ended the sudden existence of this suddenly conceived convention. There was too much of galvanic action, so to speak, in its composition to have permitted it to enjoy a healthy and successful existence. Verily, we ask in the language of one of the popular classics—"Who killed Cock Robin?"

**CLACKAMAS CIRCUIT COURT.**—This court adjourned late on Friday night last, after a very busy term of five days' duration. There were thirty cases on docket, sixteen of which were finally disposed of, and the remainder continued to next term. W. G. T. Vault, Esq., from a committee appointed by the court for that purpose, reported a set of "rules to govern the practice in the circuit court of Oregon territory," which were adopted by the court, and, we presume, in due time will be made public. A friend of ours, who is "a limb of the law," in looking over the docket, very gravely remarked, that it was the most convincing proof of the advance of civilization in this quarter that he had yet met with. After all, perhaps, the law had better come under the head of "necessary evils," and be taken in broken doses.

**THE IMMIGRATION.**—We presume that some four hundred wagons of the immigration have now reached the valley of the Willamette and others are daily arriving. Many families are coming down by water from the Dalles, boats having been sent up the Columbia for that purpose. We have a number of reports touching the distressing situation of the immigrants in the Cascade mountains, but we prefer to wait until such time as we can get at facts before we give credence to them.

By reference to another article it will be seen that a portion of the immigration by the Southern route arrived in the Valley by the 26th ult.

[Immigrants arriving via the Southern Route.]

POLK COUNTY, OREGON, Oct. 2, 1847.

Dear Sir—I am happy to inform you of the safe arrival, in the Willamette valley, of Capt. L. Scott and party, by the southern route.

Owing to traveling in a large company of 25 wagons, and being necessarily delayed by the sickness of Mrs. Burch, repairing the road, &c., the party did not arrive in the Willamette valley until the 26th of September.

Except an old wagon, abandoned by Judge Burch near Rogue river, every vehicle which took the southern road arrived in this valley, the teams in good condition, and their owners in fine health and spirits, having suffered, from all sources, a comparatively trifling loss of animals.

As the southern route has suffered much unmerited detraction, it may be interesting, as well as afford to you the means of making up an opinion of the road, to give a brief account of the progress of the immigrants over the different parts of it.

East of the Cascades or Siskiyou mountains, the party laid by, chiefly on account of the sickness and death of Mrs. Burch, eight days, and west of the mountains they were repairing the road seven days.

The traveling time from the forks of the road to the leaving of Ogden's river, about 350 miles, was 22 days, making an average of 16 miles per day.

From Ogden's river to the Rogue river valley, a distance of about 300 miles, including the Sierra Nevada and the Cascade mountains, the traveling time was again 22 days, making an average of nearly 14 miles per day.

From the entrance of Rogue river valley to the Willamette valley, including the Umpqua and Callapooia mountains, 175 miles, they were traveling 13 days, making an average of 13½ miles per day.

Grass and water was every where abundant, except from Ogden's river to the Black Rock, which was, as last year, a hard drive.

Capt. Scott, who has by no means lost his character for perseverance, has considerably improved many places in the road, both in the ground and in lessening the distance.

The immigrants also deserve much praise for their readiness and alacrity in assisting him in his efforts for their benefit.

By a few days' labor they so far improved the road through the Umpqua mountain, that 8 of the wagons came the whole distance to the prairie, on the north side, in a day, (mark that!) and the remainder had but a mile or two to travel on the following morning.

Callapooia mountain, also, has been much improved, particularly the southern ascent, which will now compare with our best roads in the valley.

Much honor is due to the immigrants who followed Capt. Scott over the southern route, for they have done much for the future prosperity of this country. By their energy and perseverance, they have redeemed the character of a road which, in the indispensable articles of grass and water, can accommodate an immense number of animals, and from the easy access which it opens to the southern valleys of the territory, the day is not distant when they will rival the Columbia in population and wealth.

Very respectfully, yours,

J. APPLIGATE.

GEO. L. CURRY, Esq., Ed. O. S.

For the Oregon Spectator.

**Rather beneath the Calling of a Worthy Act!** Last night, at a late hour, some three drunken men went to the Indian houses near the basin—disturbed the peace of those poor people, made several of them drunk, got them to fighting—one shot at another—the ball passed through the casing of the door, near the head of a man—many articles of clothing were stolen, and a complete row kicked up for the greater part of the night. This morning many of the Indians, who did not participate in the affair, express themselves with indignancy at the conduct of the Bostons for

allowing such *hum mamook!* and well may the poor red man say it is a "disgrace;" but I have been informed that one of the abettors was a mulatto man from the Institute, by the name of Winslow Anderson; the other two, it is supposed, were of those who deserted from H. B. M. ship *Modeste*. Citizens of Oregon City! how can you pass such conduct without notice? A few such drunken rats may cause much damage to be done. What fine subjects for the Washingtonians! A premium should be offered for the redemption of such men. A. B.

For the Oregon Spectator.

Mr. Editor—I have just been looking over the list of subscribers to the Oregon Spectator, and am surprised to see the word "paid" so seldom made use of. In some counties, four or five in a very long list have paid, and the word "paid" is put to the left of their names. If the gentlemen who have not paid, would just call and look at their names, there is no doubt but they would make some effort to encourage the paper; and they only can do that by PAYING UP. If your subscribers would rub out old scores, and try to get new subscribers who will do the same, I have doubt but in a short time the paper would be enlarged to double its size, and measures taken to send it to precincts in the different counties. Many people, who say they are fond of encouraging a paper in Oregon, it appears, contribute nothing but their best wishes. Well, for so much, thanks are due. Others pay, and ask no thanks; to such we are indebted. Vancouver county has done much in the way of paying up, as I see the word "paid" to every name, except one, in thirty-four—that is quite a list, and for that thanks are due. Come, subscribers, do PAY UP, and let the paper live.

A DIRECTOR.

From the St. Louis Reveille.

**Patriotism!—Lieutenant Price.**

On the first call for volunteers a company of riflemen was raised in Pulaski county, Illinois, under the command of Col. Henry L. Webb. It numbered one hundred, rank and file, which was just one-fourth of the number of voters in the whole county! The first man who signed his name to the muster-roll was *Smith Price*, an old Virginian, seventy-three years of age. Two of his sons, who had previously served in the Black Hawk war, followed his example, and the full compliment was soon complete, of the best young men in the county. When the roll was full, Colonel Webb intimated to Mr. Price that he supposed he had signed the roll only for the purpose of setting the young men a patriotic example.

"You are mistaken, then," answered the old Virginian; "I signed my name there, sir, for the purpose of setting them an example on the field."

"I am afraid, Mr. Price," said the Colonel, "that they will not receive a man of your advanced age."

"It matters not, sir," said the brave old man, "I can pay my own expenses, and fight on my own hook."

Finding remonstrance useless, he was permitted to accompany them, and at the rendezvous, at Alton, he was chosen a lieutenant of the company. On the march in Mexico, the old man was permitted to ride, his age and feebleness not permitting him to undergo the fatigues of a foot march. In a conversation with the officers he said:

"It is true my old legs refuse to carry me as far now as they would forty years ago, but when the fighting comes, gentlemen, I will be there; and I shall feel proud to lay down the small remnant of my life in not only setting an example to my boys, but proving to our enemies that there is no limit in age to a North American's fighting days!"

Every officer belonging to the Pulaski company was killed, and among them the brave old lieut. Smith Price; besides, report says, at least fifty of the company. They formed a portion of gen. Wool's advance guard, belonged to the light battalion, first engaged the enemy at Buena Vista, and, of course, suffered dreadfully.

Col. Webb, now raising five companies at Cairo, left the command last January to bear despatches from gen. Wool. He was at home, in Pulaski county, when the news of this severe fought battle arrived, and he says when his anxious neighbors and friends gathered in his house to learn particulars—the child asking news of his father, a wife of her husband, and father of his son—that, knowing the sad loss the county had suffered, and fearing to tell it, he broke away and left. When