



THE SPECTATOR.

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

Oregon City, Nov. 25, 1847.

☐ We are indebted to the arrival of the bark Janot, Captain Deing, for California papers to the 2d of October. They contain no news of consequence.

☐ To Correspondents.—Some verses from our fair correspondent M. J. B. have disappeared most unaccountably. Will we be favored with another copy?

☐ The Willamette river is raising very rapidly at this point. The recent warm rains are clearing the mountain land of snow.

☐ The annual express of the Hudson's Bay Co. from England, arrived at Fort Vancouver on Saturday last.

THE BALL.—To night there will be a pleasant gathering at the City Hotel to join in our friend Magruder's ball. It will be a delightful affair no doubt—bright eyes and "the poetry of motion" and all that, to any nothing of the old bachelors who intend being there to endeavor to improve their miserable condition. Therefore girls attention! and don't be hard hearted.

THE IMMIGRANTS.—We understand by persons just down from the Cascades, that it was currently reported there that something like one hundred more wagons of immigrants had arrived at the Dalles. There are about one hundred families of the immigration still remaining at these two points on the Columbia.

☐ His Excellency Gov. Abernethy, informs us that he has received a letter from California, dated the 5th of October last, in which it was stated that the U. S. ship of war *Frable* had arrived from Panama, with no news of peace, nor very late dates from the States.

☐ The names of the members of the House of Representatives are as follows:

Clelchames County.—Medorum Crawford; J. M. Weir, S. S. White.

Champoeg County.—Robert Newell; A. Chamberlain; W. H. Reese; W. H. Rector; Anderson Cox.

Tualatin County.—Ralph Wilcox; J. L. Meek; David Hill.

Yamhill County.—L. A. Rice; Lewis Rogers; A. J. Hembree.

Polk County.—J. W. Nesmith; M. A. Ford; St. Clair.

Vancouver County.—Henry N. Peers.

Lewis County.—S. Plomondeau.

Clatsop County.—John Robinson.

☐ We see in the California papers the arrival of Chas. E. Fickett, Esq. from the Sandwich Islands.

☐ The celebrated Methodist preacher Mr. Maffit, got divorced awhile ago and has now got married.

LIBERAL.—The Wesleyan Methodists of England, in view of the distress in Ireland, (we learn from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*) have resolved upon, and to a considerable extent have made collections through their congregations, and have transmitted to a central committee in London thirteen thousand pounds sterling.

FARMING ENCOURAGED.—We have received a letter from Capt. Kilborn, dated at Astoria, the 3d inst informing us that he had dug from the garden of Colonel McClure, at that place, "the produce of one potato and that a volunteer one. The whole number amounted to 99; the entire weight of which was 18 pounds. One measured 17 inches in circumference, three measured 14 inches ditto, four 13 inches and one eleven inches ditto. About 35 were larger than the common size; the remainder from common size to small." Captain K. also obtained from the Col's garden a cabbage weighing 32 pounds, which had been planted about the middle of the month of July last.

We can also attest the unusual productiveness of the garden of our friend Col. McClure. A great variety of vegetables we there observed in most prolific growth, some of which in a Horticultural exhibition would most certainly win the premium. The Col. has but a small piece of land under cultivation, yet the superior quality of the soil enables him always to realize handsomely from his agricultural operations, which perhaps chiefly permits him to be hospitable as he is. His recent note of hospitality to himself, constitute one of the pleasures of our memory.

Repeal the Currency Law.

In a week from Tuesday next the members of the Legislature will assemble at this place for the purpose of entering upon the discharge of their duties. As we will not issue another paper until after they will have convened, we have a few general remarks to make which we hope will be worthy of consideration. Now we have no doubt but that the Representatives elect will perform their duties faithfully so far as they are conscious of them, and we will be pardoned therefore if in our present undertaking we should remind them of some matters that may shape themselves into duties. Laws are or should be made for the public good, consequently their enactment is of such importance as to demand the most careful and rigid consideration. Yet, notwithstanding all the purity of purpose—the wisest deliberations, statutes will appear upon the statute book "in the best regulated" legislatures which after legislation is obliged to correct. If a law is found to be unjust in its operations, when the spirit of all law is justice, should it not be repealed at once, without any hesitation? If a law is proved to be made up of material that does not favor the common right—the principles of which it is no honor to uphold—should it not be repealed? The people—the democracy, should support nothing but what is right. And what is right? That which does no one wrong? No! That only which does a positive good.

With these reflections and conclusions then we turn our attention to an "Act relative to the currency" impudently staring at us from the 2d No. Vol. 1 of the *Spectator*, now before us, being among the first laws adopted by this Territory. Now we hold that no condition of circumstances can ever justify laws of this character and it is but a short sighted policy that could have induced any community to attempt to avail itself by them. We are at a loss to conceive the utility of such a law; for the life of us we cannot recognize a single stage of its operation that is free from a baneful influence.

We are vexed to think that when Oregon legislated only from necessity and made such laws as were actually required, and pretty good ones too, she should have meddled with that which did not concern her and which her own interests demanded that no law should trammel. The administration of Andrew Jackson was the illustration of much practical wisdom to the American people. Questions that had long agitated the political world, the comprehensive mind of that second father of his country, made as plain as the noonday sun to the understanding of the common mind. And this matter of "regulating," or in any way meddling with the currency, we fancy, has received its quietus in the States. Oregon, perhaps, needed some experience in legislation, and as knowledge comes quickly from experience, wisdom is generally a consequence. We sincerely hope it may be in this case and that that wisdom may be made manifest in the immediate repeal of the law complained of.

The law at present operates only to the advantage of the merchant; it makes him the banker, without testing his solvent condition. Under it in fact he is protected from such a thing as insolvency. The natural channels of trade have been dammed up, we make it flow through numberless shallow, uncertain and unhealthy passages, and all to little purpose. The farmer does not realize the full value of his produce, and in the exorbitant demand for the various articles of merchandise necessary to his comfort, is swallowed up his all of profit. Every department of industry and labor feels the paralyzing effect of such an unrighteous law. Private contracts will always occur as a matter of course in trade they are inseparable to its existence. They are of certain account, that accountability is not at all strengthened by such enactments. They would be of the same force and effect if this law were not in existence. If it did no harm this law is worse than useless; and it were libelous to common sense to acknowledge it. We shall look with some interest for the action of the "congregated wisdom" upon this subject.

☐ J. M. Stanley, Esq. the excellent young artist, whose brief sojourn with us last summer made him numerous friends and admirers, writes us from the "Okanagan" somewhat of his travels. He contemplated a visit to Fort Colville and a return to these parts about the holidays. We have no doubt that he will be able to accomplish sufficiently in a professional way to repay him for the labors and fatigues of such a trip.

☐ The *Galveston News* says that the number of German emigrants who arrived in that City during the quarter ending December 31, 1846, was 4,500.

☐ Gen. Paredes is in Paris, endeavoring, but without success, to entangle the French government in the affairs of Mexico. Paredes gave it as his opinion that the Mexican war would be a long one.

☐ It is stated that a whole colony, numbering fifteen thousand souls, will come to the United States, from Switzerland in the month of May next, and settle down in the West.

MORE IMMIGRANTS.—By the subjoined letter it will be seen that another company of immigrants have arrived in the valley by the Southern route—making a surprisingly short trip—having left the States the 22d of last June. "The almost impassable *Kanyon*," is certainly being redeemed.

POLK COUNTY, OREGON, }
Nov. 16th, 1847. }

DEAR SIR—I have the pleasure to announce to you the safe arrival by the Southern route of a fourth company of immigrants of 20 or more wagons. This party left St. Joseph on the 22d June and being in the rearward of so large an immigration fared but badly until they took the S. route.—Finding on it abundance of feed, their teams rapidly recruited and upon their arrival here were in fine condition. From the best information I can get they have made the most saving trip that has ever yet been made from Fort Hall, having lost but four animals on the road (which were stolen by Indians).—The party kept up to guard, and it is remarkable they lost no more; a woman was wounded in the arm by an arrow. So terrible had the *kanyon* been described to them that they were expecting daily to arrive at it until they came into the settlements, and declare there is no *kanyon* on the road. They brought with them \$0 sheep.

Here are some interesting particulars relative to the arrival of the last companies on the Southern route, received too late for insertion in our last paper.

A company of 16 wagons, under the direction of Mr. Gordon, left the forks of the road on the 27th day of August, bound for California. They met the party of Com. Stockton, who advised them to keep the Southern route to Oregon, until they arrived at the Sacramento river, and by descending it they would avoid the Sierra Nevada. They followed his advice, but after laying by one week at that river examining the country, they concluded it would be safer to follow the road to Oregon. While lying at the Sacramento a party of 11 wagons passed them on their way to Oregon (the party of Mr. Davis,) they did not overtake this party, but they arrived in the Willamette valley on the morning of the 25th of October, being two days less than two months on the road including all stoppages and lying a whole week in one camp. The small party starting in behind and getting through before them have made the trip much sooner.

YAMHILL CONVENTION.—We publish the subjoined letter with much pleasure and assure our friend Judge Russell that we desired to be correct in our remarks about this subject and so far as our memory serves us we were so. We concede the point, however, that the Judge should know how Polk county voted in the convention, as he was one of the delegates from that county.

G. L. CURRY, Esq.—Sir: in looking over the nineteenth number (2d Vol.) of the *Spectator* which has but lately come to hand, I see an article entitled "Yamhill Convention," in which you propose to immortalize some of the proceedings of that august Assembly.

Anticipating your admission, that the three great requisites of a historian are, impartiality, fidelity and accuracy, I have no hesitation in believing your strict regard for those qualities, will prompt you to cheerfully correct any errors occurring in your editorials, when clearly pointed out to you.

I have no desire to comment on the proceedings of the Yamhill Convention; to detract from or eulogise the merits of its members; my object is to correct a mistake which occurred in the above mentioned article.

On the motion "that no recommendations to office in Oregon be made to the Executive of the United States," you say that "Polk County led off with six votes in the negative." I presume you will not be inclined to doubt the correctness of my knowledge on the subject, when I inform you that Polk County on the question alluded to gave six votes in the affirmative.

The article in question would have had but a silent perusal by me, had I not been personally concerned, and believing that after the receipt of this information, you will in justice to myself and the delegation from Polk County, correct the error in regard to the manner in which they gave their votes on the question above alluded to, I remain yours in friendship.

O. RUSSELL.

Polk County, Nov. 2, 1847.

☐ The Hon. Thomas Hart Benton has publicly declined running as a candidate for the next presidency.

Foreign Intelligence.

IRELAND.—The distress in Ireland continues. On this subject, the *Atlas* of March 25, says:

"In the mean time there would appear to be some slight abatement of the prevalent Irish distress. The efforts so long made, and so perseveringly making for the relief of our famishing brethren across the Channel, are now beginning to have a visible ameliorative effect upon the condition of the hungry people. But it will take time to reach the depths of such misery as this; the surface has only been touched. As we become more intimately acquainted with the details of domestic suffering—the grievous pictures of starvation, disease, and death, all of which have been published by eye-witnesses of the horrors described—it becomes more apparent that the extent and intensity of the calamity with which Providence has afflicted the country has been rather understated than exaggerated. And with this conviction, it is cheering to be able to add that there is no diminution of the efforts making in all quarters, to swell the different relief funds; a continuous stream of charity is pouring in, and it will be long before the fountain is exhausted.

All that has yet been done for the relief of the destitute seems in no respect to have staid the progress of mortality. The most harrowing accounts continue to be received from Sligo, Cork, Kerry, Leitrim, Langford, and other counties. The deaths from starvation are increasing, and fever and dysentery are spreading in all directions. There are nearly 1000 prisoners in the county jail of Cork, and of these about one-tenth are in fever—the famine fever. The extraordinary number of prisoners is principally owing to the existing distress, the charges being generally for larceny and sheep stealing.

The quays of Dublin are every day crowded with emigrants, principally natives of Tipperary, Kilkenny, King's and Queen's County, Westmeath, Longford, Cavan, and Leitrim. They invariably appear to be of that class known in Ireland by the description of "snug people," or fine able young fellows of the laboring class, whose energies do not seem to have been much impaired by the prevailing destitution. About three hundred daily is the number of those who fly from the scenes of misery which exist to such a fearful extent, and they all direct their course to New York, proceeding, in the first instance, to Liverpool.

During the last week of February, Lord De Veroi, solely at his own expense, sent one hundred persons from his estate in Queen's county to New York; and not only paid their passage out, and provided them with beds and provisions, and every thing necessary for their transit to the New World, but he also gave an order on New York, that they should receive £1 each on their arrival there."

The receipt of the British Association for the relief of distress in Ireland and Scotland, as reported on the 17th instant, amounted to £50,000, received from the Home Secretary, being part of a collection under the Queen's letter.

The Grand Duke of Tuscany has granted to his subjects the liberty of the press. Austria remonstrated against it without avail.

By a letter from Paris of the 28th of January, it appears that Gen. Parades was in that Capital, and had had interviews with the King and M. Guizot, endeavoring to convince them that France and England ought to interfere in the Mexican war. The writer, ignorantly speaks of the policy of the Cabinet of Washington as follows:—What it wants is to possess itself of California, for it has no other port in the Pacific, and after that to take possession of the Sandwich Islands, and make itself exclusive master of the commerce of China and South America.

The *Evening Post* of New York mentions the arrival of a French officer, well recommended, who had volunteered to serve in the U. S. Army in Mexico, but was suspected of being an agent of the Duke of Montpensier, who was desirous of becoming the king of Mexico.

In the U. S. Senate, March 3d, J. Ingersoll was nominated as Minister to France, but rejected. Mr. Richard Rush was then appointed.

President Polk has addressed a letter to the Cabinet at Berlin, threatening to revoke all exequaturs to Prussian Consuls in the U. S., if the Prussian Government persists in refusing to grant one to the American Consul in the Rhenish Provinces.

The remittances of the laboring Irishmen