



# THE SPECTATOR.

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

Oregon City, Dec. 26, 1847.

FROM OUR EXTRA OF THIS MORNING.

I hastily take this opportunity of informing the readers of the "Oregon Spectator," that at about 10 o'clock last night I was informed that my services as Editor of the Oregon Spectator were no longer required by a majority of the Board of Directors of the Printing Association; this too in the face of my contract with them requiring thirty days notice before the abrogation of the contract by either party.

The names of the honorable men who have attempted to do me this injustice are Geo. Abernethy, W. Roberts, J. R. Robb, and Robert Newell. They were aware that the paper would be published this morning and that it would contain some truths very unpleasant to themselves, which is their only apology for thus endeavoring to muzzle the press.

We shall insist upon our contract and trust to be able to maintain our post as Editor for at least thirty days longer; we shall then be but too happy to leave the service of such a contemptible clique!

GEO. L. CURRY.

In addition to the foregoing EXTRA, we have only to say that as long as we are editor of the "Oregon Spectator" we will be the sole judge of what matter shall be published in the paper.

Notwithstanding the unexpected event that have transpired within a few hours, we have made no change whatever in the contents of the paper. We have not time to give the story of our grievances now, as it would delay the publication of the paper; feeling, however, that we have acted up to our sense of duty in the matter of difference between ourselves and the Board of Directors of the Printing Association, we shall calmly await the issue, whatever it may be.

Several communications have been necessarily deferred until our next issue.

Several documents of public interest we shall place before our readers in another number.

We have heard nothing from Wallawalla since the melancholy intelligence of the horrible massacre which we published in our last. Major Lee and his command had safely made the portage at the Cascades, and were at the head of the rapids on the 16th inst. We have received information that leads us to the belief that the Whites have abandoned the Dalles in consequence of the hostile bearing of the Indians. We sincerely hope if they have done so that they have been enabled to reach a place of safety without any fresh disaster. We have a variety of reports, but as they are very conflicting in their character, we have concluded to await more reliable intelligence. It is pretty generally believed now that there is a regular combination of the tribes of the Upper Columbia; if this should prove to be the fact, we shall have serious times indeed. Most anxiously do we look for further news.

The Governor has issued his proclamation for one hundred men for the prosecution of the war with the Cayuse Indians. There is much difference of opinion in the public mind as to the propriety of calling out one hundred men or more. The only difficulty in the way, we apprehend, is the expense of equipping and maintaining in the field a larger force. Could not several of the counties furnish a company each of sixty or more men, and provide within themselves for the necessary outfit? We think it feasible. If the war chances to come down into the valley there will be no waiting for the negotiating of a loan of even one hundred thousand cents. We fancy there would be, as should be the case now, a prompt rally for the common defence.

WANTED.—We are very much in need of numbers 1 and 11, 2d volume, of the Spectator. Our subscribers who do not file their papers will confer a great favor, and shall receive the full price for the same, if they will send us as many of these numbers as they please.

OREGON PRINTING ASSOCIATION.—At the annual meeting of the above named association, on the evening of the 7th inst., the following officers were appointed to officiate for the ensuing year, by and with the advice and consent of the proprietors:

George Abernethy, President; W. Roberts, Vice President; S. M. Holderness, Treasurer; John P. Brooks, Secretary; J. R. Robb, A. L. Lovejoy, and Robert Newell, Directors.

ABOUT TO BE BEHEADED.—With the most pleasurable feelings we inform our readers that we will possibly be beheaded in about thirty days—that is to say, we will be expelled from the editorial chair of the Oregon Spectator for no other reason than that we are aware of, than having always endeavored to tell the truth and keep above petty factions and insignificant cliques.—We have been too independent to be made a tool of, and esteem ourselves much too proud to yield one particle of our manhood to any dignitary in the land.—We have some plain facts to set forth, some singular revelations to make, before we bid adieu to the pleasant duty we have been engaged in for the last fifteen months, as editor of the Spectator. At an appropriate time and in appropriate terms, we shall say our farewell to our readers, and wish immeasurable success to the Oregon press.

We would inform some of the members of the Board of Directors of the Printing Association that our character editorially only, they have the right to sit in judgment upon, and abuse as much as they please. Our private character, however, is our own concern, and we hope always to have mental and physical ability sufficient to defend it. The members of the Board profess to be, and doubtless are, gentlemen—all we ask is to be treated as a compeer.

The names of A. Wise and S. A. Jackson were associated in our last paper with those of the volunteers who had gone to the Dalles. Such is not the fact, however. They did not make their appearance at roll call. At Vancouver the following named persons joined the company: J. Kestor, Nathan Olney, Daniel P. Barnes.

The following Resolutions, upon their introduction in the Legislature, by Judge Nesmith, of Polk County, occasioned quite a flutter in that august assembly. It is a most grievous matter certainly that Honorable gentlemen are ever obliged to commit themselves upon any question; it is hard to dodge the yea and nays and when the question came to be taken, timidity resigned itself to its fate and assumed the appearance of firmness. As our name has been somewhat mixed up in this matter without any leave or license from us, we have a word to say and a more appropriate time may possibly not occur in which to speak it. We would have it understood that we ask for no office, and if our name has been used, which we do not believe, by the clique, of whom Judge Thornton is said to be the representative in the supposed application at Washington City, for office in this Territory, it has been used without our consent or knowledge and we shall be at some trouble to properly discharge the obligation it will place us under. It is said that men are told by the company they keep, we choose to select our own associates and insist upon it as a right.

1st. Whereas, It is believed that the period is at hand when the government of the United States will be extended over Oregon Territory; and officers appointed to administer and execute laws for the welfare and protection of her citizens. And,

2d. Whereas, Owing to our remote situation, and great distance from the Capitol of the United States, the President thereof is liable to be imposed upon and deceived by the ex parte interested statements and recommendations of aspirants to office and their friends residing in Oregon. And,

3d. Whereas, It is generally believed that J. Quinn Thornton has been secretly dispatched to Washington City with recommendations, petitions and memorials secretly gotten up for the purpose of obtaining for himself and friends the high and important offices which will be at the disposal of the President of the United States when the government thereof shall be extended over Oregon Territory. And,

4th. Whereas, It is important and desirable in all republican governments, that the selection of all judicial and executive officers should meet the approbation and confidence of a majority of the people over which they are to exercise authority; and, be as far as possible removed from the intrigue and influence of odious and secret petitions which tend to subvert the true interests of the government and abridge the rights and liberties of the people. And,

5th. Whereas, It is the opinion of this House that had the departure and intentions of J. Quinn Thornton been timely known to

the public, that a large majority of the people of this Territory would have signed a remonstrance against his being appointed to any office within its limits. Therefore—

1st. Resolved, That it is the duty of this Legislature, as the immediate representatives of the people of Oregon, to use all honorable means to avert such a calamity as the appointment of J. Quinn Thornton or any individual by whom he may be severally recommended to any office of honor or trust within the limits of Oregon Territory.

2d. Resolved, That copies of this preamble and resolutions be forwarded to the executive of the United States.

David Hill, Esq., of Tualatin, amended the resolutions by the following:

Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions are not to apply to J. Quinn Thornton unless he shall apply to the President for an appointment to any office of trust or profit in Oregon Territory.

YEAS—Messrs. Cox, Hembree, Hill, Ford, Rice, Rector, Nesmith, Wilcox—8.

NAYS—Messrs. Crawford, Reece, Rodgers, Robinson, Plomondo, White, Wair, and Mr. Speaker—8.

LEGISLATIVE.—The Legislature will perhaps adjourn next week, and in our next we shall give a summary of the result of the session. Gen. Gilliam has been appointed Colonel; Waters, Lieut. Colonel; and Capt. H. A. G. Lee, Major of the troops that are to be placed in the field. Capt. J. Palmer has been elected Commissary General. In view of the serious circumstances in which we are involved, the Legislature have concluded to send a special messenger to the General Government, in order to apprise them fully, and as early as possible, of the situation of our affairs. Joseph L. Meek, Esq., one of the members from Tualatin County, has been honored with this important appointment, and will proceed forthwith upon his mission. The route he proposes to take we have not learned. Of course it will be the one that will ensure the most expeditious travel. A brief and pertinent memorial to the Congress of the United States, setting forth our situation and wants, was on yesterday adopted by the house. We have not the names of the committee who prepared this document. It was reported through their Chairman, Marcus Ford, Esq., of Polk. It might have been well to have concluded the memorial by saying, "we have petitioned until our fervency and faith are quite exhausted, and loving our country, we will calmly suffer the consequences of her cold neglect, but never again give the faithless servants of our father land another opportunity to slight our prayers." Refer to next page for memorial.

MARINE.—The arrivals and departures at the mouth of the Columbia river since last March, have been as follows: Am. barque Toulon, Capt. Crosby, in and out three times; Am. brig Henry, Capt. Kilborn, in and out three times; Am. barque Whiton, Capt. Gelston, in and out twice; H. B. Co's barque Cowlitz, Capt. Wynton, in and out twice; H. B. Co's barque Columbia, Capt. Duncan, in and out twice; H. B. Co's brig Mary Dare, Capt. Cooper, in and out once; H. B. Co's sloop Cadboro, Capt. Scarborough, in and out three times; Am. ship Brutus, Capt. Adams, in and out once; Eng. barque Janet, Capt. Dring, in and out twice; Am. sloop Com. Stockton, Capt. Young, in and out once; Am. ship Mount Vernon, Capt. Given, in and out once; French barque Morning Star, Capt. Mennais, in and out once; British sloop of war Medesto, Capt. Baillie, departed.

Where are those vessels of war that Mr. Buchanan, in his official capacity as Secretary of State, promised us should visit our ports? Echo answers where? Was Mr. Buchanan's letter for buncom?

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Hon. the Legislative Assembly of Oregon:

FELLOW CITIZENS:—Contrary to the expectation of all who reside in this Territory, you are again convened under the Provisional Government of Oregon.

After learning that the boundary line question was settled, there was hardly a doubt resting in the mind of any individual, with regard to the extension of the jurisdiction of the United States over this Territory. We have been sadly disappointed, and hope which was so fondly cherished, begins to sink into despair in the hearts of many.

Our situation is not a very pleasant one on account of the uncertainty attending it, we may be in less than six months under the laws and government of the United States, and we may on the other hand exist in our present state for several years. This uncertainty will no doubt embarrass you in your proceedings.

If we remain as we are, for any length of time, ways and means must be devised for raising a more extensive revenue. The laws should be published in a convenient form—a fund set apart for treating with Indians, and many other things provided for that we have thus far dispensed with, but which must be attended to, in order that we may carry out the principles under which we have associated.

This being the first session of the present Congress, they will have more time to devote to the formation of a government for this Territory than at the last session. The probability is that peace between the United States and Mexico will have been restored; and relieve Congress from the cares and anxieties attendant upon a war, and also relieve the government from the very heavy expense which must necessarily attend the carrying on of a war. These things lead to the hope, that among the first acts of Congress, will be the passage of an act, to establish a Territorial Government in Oregon. This will release us from our present embarrassments and place us under a permanent form of government. Hoping that this may be the case, I will call your attention to such subjects as are most pressing in their character, and which cannot well be dispensed with.

The Judiciary as now regulated answers all the purposes required of it, and proves to be a far better system than the old one; there is one thing, however, needed very much in connection with it, and that is a prison.—Should an offender be sentenced to imprisonment by the Judge, there is no place in the Territory to confine him, and consequently he escapes the punishment that his crime justly merits. This should not be so, and I hope you will provide means during your present session for the erection of a jail.

In my message of 1845 I recommended that in addition to gold and silver, wheat should be the only article used in the country as a legal tender—the Legislature added treasury drafts, and orders on solvent merchants. I would recommend the repeal of that part of the act which constitutes treasury drafts and orders on solvent merchants a lawful tender. Receiving treasury drafts however in payment of taxes and debts due the government. Gold and silver is much more plentiful in the Territory now than it was two years ago, and could be made the only lawful tender hereafter, without detriment to the community, still I think wheat had better remain in connection with gold and silver, it is a staple article and can always be disposed of to merchants and others.

I would recommend an alteration in the law relating to the recording of land claims. The organic law requires that claims be recorded in the office of the Territorial recorder; this answered very well while our population was small, and nearly all living in one district; but our population is increasing rapidly, and spreading out over a large extent of territory, new counties have been formed and probably in a short time other counties will be set off, and lands taken up still farther from the Territorial Recorder's office, than at the present time. In view of this I think it advisable that you propose an amendment to the Organic Law, making the clerk of the county court recorder of all land claims located within his county, and dispense with the office of Territorial Recorder.

The Act entitled "An Act to regulate the manufacture and sale of wine and distilled spirituous liquors," passed at the last session of the legislature, I would recommend for revision. An act to prevent the introduction, manufacture and sale of ardent spirits in Oregon, would be far more preferable to a majority of the people in this Territory.—In our early history, ardent spirits was unknown among us, every effort was made to keep it out of the Territory, and to a great extent successfully until 1846, when owing to the defects in the law, passed at the session of 1845, some persons violated the statute and liquor was made and sold in the Territory, but it was not done openly nor carried on to any great extent. The last Legislature licensed the manufacture and sale of ardent spirits; I hope the present Legislature will repeal the license law. Would it not be better to have the law opposed to ardent spirits, than to have the manufacture and sale of liquor legalized by the statute. It is argued by some persons that you have not the right to put it down; by others, that it is interfering with the liberties of the peo-