



THE SPECTATOR.

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

Oregon City, Jan. 6, 1848.

ERRATA.—In the Legislative resolutions concerning Judge Thornton, published in the last paper, in the fourth paragraph for "secret petitions" read secret factions. In the Memorial to Congress, in the same paper, in the fourth paragraph for insufficient read inefficient.

In the last paragraph of the Governor's Message for "justification" read gratitude.

THE INDIANS have reported at the mouth of the Columbia, that a cask of brandy, a barrel of salmon, bundles of shingles and a jib-boom with a piece of sail attached, have come ashore near Shoalwater Bay. We hear that a party of whites intend going round to the Bay, for the purpose of ascertaining the facts.

WE owe an apology to "Philo," for not having published his article sooner. The delay, however, was unavoidable.

ORGANIZE RIFLE COMPANIES.—Would it not be well, in view of the present state of our affairs, to form companies of riflemen in the several counties of the Territory? It would certainly be a preparation for greater efficiency in the field and something like security at home. How many rifles are in order and how much ammunition is ready in case of emergency?—Let the organization of companies go on throughout the country—let these be a means of defence provided even for the household hearth; it may be necessary when it is too late. Our enemy is powerful and wily and we should take every precaution possible against encroachments.

IS it true that the Loan Commissioners have discounted twenty-five per cent for the payment of subscriptions in cash and given bonds for the full amount subscribed, drawing ten per cent per annum interest?

THE CLOSING VOLUME.—Another number will conclude the 2d volume of the Spectator and our services as Editor. The first number of the next volume will be sent, we presume, as has been the custom heretofore, to such as have paid their subscriptions to the previous volume. It will doubtless be satisfactory to the Board of Directors if such as are in arrears with the Printing Association would settle their several accounts. We shall give our farewell to our readers in the next paper.

SCARCELY HONORABLE.—As we were a member of the first Board of Commissioners to negotiate a loan for the settlement of our Indian difficulties to which office, we were elected much against our wish—and in justice to those who were associated with us in the discharge of the arduous duties consequent thereupon, we would remark that the present Board of Commissioners, in our humble opinion, have done us great injustice, perhaps unintentionally, in stating as they do in the unnecessary preamble to their bond, that Jesse Applegate, A. L. Lovejoy and Geo. L. Curry, "resigned their said office without performing all the duties thereof." We find upon the journal of the recent Legislative proceedings the following:

"Resolved, That the thanks of this House be returned to Jesse Applegate, A. L. Lovejoy and Geo. L. Curry for the prompt and efficient manner in which they discharged the duties of commissioners and that they be discharged from further service."

It was the understanding of the previous commission, as expressed in their report, the spirit of which report we shall endeavor to publish in our next, that the proper persons to execute bonds for the several loans they had effected were the proper accounting officers of the Government. Though the Commissioners pledged the faith of the Territory for the repayment of loans, they did nothing that would have a tendency to impair that faith.

WE have understood that Judge White, of Clackamas, introduced in the House of Representatives, a few days before its adjournment, a resolution against printing the Thornton Resolutions, which was lost, the Clackamas delegation only voting for it. We should be glad to publish the resolution if we could but get it. The fact of its introduction and the proceedings thereon are not even alluded to in the journal of the House, nor is a copy of the resolution to be found among the legislative papers filed in the Secretary's office. This is expunging most effectively, and, as the only evidence upon the point is individual memory, it would "keep the climax" to deny the whole matter. We care not particularly about the resolution, it is but the principle concerned that is worthy of regard.

OUR ENDOURMENTS.—The recent attempt to muzzle the press on the part of Geo. Abernethy, W. Robb, A. E. Smith and Robert Newell, (who constitute a bare majority of the Board of Directors of the Printing Association) having failed—thanks to the public for their unequivocal expression of opinion and to Mr. Hudson, our publisher, for his manly and honorable conduct—we have an opportunity to make a plain statement of facts and in doing so we will "nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice," for malice shall never be charged upon us, and we would rather endure our wrongs in silence than perpetrate what honor will not sanction.

We are so situated as to consider that the proceedings of the Legislature, whatever the character, belong to the public—presuming that body to be actually the people acting through their agents. Those agents are sometimes faithless and undeserving of the trust reposed in them. Whether they act well or ill those who commissioned them deem it their business to know and judge. Entertaining these views, which notwithstanding the manifesto of the muscling majority of the "Board of Directors," to the contrary, we shall endeavor to retain—we obtained the resolutions concerning Judge Thornton and had them put in type. About 8 o'clock on Friday evening Mr. Newell called upon us and stated that he was a committee appointed by the Board for certain purposes, which he named. We then desired that any communication the Board should judge proper to make to us might be made in writing. In half an hour afterwards the same individual handed us the subjoined, upon a slip of paper:

Whereas information has been communicated to this Board that certain Resolutions affecting the character of J. Q. Thornton which were brought before the present Legislature and not passed are about to be published in the present No. of the Spectator; therefore Resolved, That Mr. Curry be respectfully requested not to publish said communication, and the more especially as we deem it improper to publish what the Legislature has not done until the paper shall have reported to some considerable extent what really has been done, by that honorable body.

ROBERT NEWELL,
Chairman of Committee.

As the above was not addressed personally to us, and as, in our opinion, it called for no answer, we gave none in writing, merely remarking that we presumed the committee had performed its duty, &c. Mr. Newell, however, requested a reply, and being extremely pertinacious upon that point, we said that although we could not investigate the communication, nor consistently reply in writing, to anything that was not addressed to us, yet if it would prove any satisfaction to him we would say that the paper, which would be published on the next day, would show whether the request of the Board had been complied with. About two hours thereafter the following expressive and elegantly indited epistle reached us:

OREGON CITY, Dec. 24th, 1847.

MR. CURRY—Sir: There has been a resolution passed on the board to this effect:

Resolved, That the services of the present editor G. L. Curry are no longer required, but that his salary be continued for 30 days without any editorial labor as compensation from this date.

J. R. ROBB, Sect. pro tem.

We hope that we bore this astounding intelligence with becoming fortitude. Certain it is that we felt an inexpressible contempt for the penitential spirit displayed in such a miserable attempt to cover up private malice by so poor a subterfuge. The moment that the guillotine had performed its work and our poor trunk was considered headless, the quadruple alliance against the liberty of the press, instructed the publisher of the "Spectator" no longer to recognize us as its editor, thereby manifesting their intention to cut us off entirely from any chance of a justification of our conduct, to the violation and abrogation of expressed stipulations that had been entered into.

We promptly determined the course we should take, and the expression of popular opinion, on the succeeding day, strongly and nobly sustained us in maintaining the freedom of the press. And let that expression of opinion be a warning to such in this Territory, who, "calculating without their host," would undertake to assail "the palladium of human liberty."

We have said enough about this matter, less we could not have said and done justice to our feelings.—The clique have been signally defeated for the present, at least, and the gratification of private malice will be found somewhat insufficient for the mortification experienced.

COL. BENTON.—The Commercial Bulletin, published in Booneville, Mo., contains the following important letter from Col. Benton.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 21, 1847.

MR. QUINSEBERRY—Sir: I see that you have put my name for the Presidency, at the head of your editorial column; and while I thank you for this mark of your good opinion, I must inform you that it is entirely contrary to my wishes and declared intentions, especially in my speech at Booneville in 1844: I must, therefore, request you to drop my name from the place you have given it; and, if necessary to give any reason, you can very truly say it was done at my request.

Yours truly,
THOMAS H. BENTON.

A happy New Year.

Another year! another still succeeds,
To bear us onward whether life be long.
Another year has gone away into the eternity of the past, to be known no more forever, but in the memory of its deeds. How much of joy—how much of we has been experienced by poor humanity within its brief compass! What wisdom has been achieved; what follies have enlaved and what crimes have accursed. To what varied uses has not life been put in lengthening out its puny chain.

From the irrevocable past comes up a warning voice telling of violated faith and disregarded admonitions. The heart clings to its idols still; the rich instructions of nature through a "communion with her visible forms"—her "voice of gladness"—her "smile and eloquence of beauty"—her "gentle sympathy"—her holy teachings will they avail not?

It has been said that the words of wisdom are as peaks, which the surges of the dark waters of oblivion have cast upon the shores of time; which Experience loves to gather to hang about the neck of Reason. The departed year has passed into the obvious gulf and the surges thereof have left pearls behind, should we not strive and love to gather them?

Have the amenities of life been chilled, we have it in our power to revive them; let the heart be bright and truthful and its radiant influence will go forth not vainly. Beautiful things are an unceasing joy and it is a pleasant philosophy to believe that it is we ourselves that are subject to change, not them.

Years will glide away, and yet, new years succeed while proud ambition, passionate love and brilliant hope dies away in the keen pang of disappointment to be resurrected again amid the budding buds of joyous spring—

"The gay will laugh, the solemn brood of care
Flies on, and each one, as before, will chase
His favorite phantom; yet all these shall leave
Their mirth and their employments, and shall come
And make their bed with thee."

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan that moves
To the pale realms of shade, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon; but sustained and soothed
By an unflinching trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

LEGISLATIVE.—The "Journal of the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Oregon," as it is entitled, we have been giving a hearty personal, and we give the subjoined summary of the doings of that body at the recent session with the remark, and we cannot well help making it, that we think there is yet room for improvement in our Legislation.

"An act authorizing the Governor to raise a Regiment of Volunteers, &c." was the first bill of the session. We next observe that the House adopted the following resolution, offered by Mr. Crawford, of Clackamas:

"Resolved, That a delegation of three persons be appointed by this House, to proceed immediately to Wallawalla, and hold a council with the Chiefs and principal men of the various tribes of Indians on the Columbia, to prevent if possible their coalition with the Cayuse tribe in the present difficulties."

This was an excellent idea, but we searched the journal in vain to find who were appointed as the delegation. Indeed we look upon it as a matter of sincere regret that the House forgot to do its duty in this matter. The passage of "An act appropriating one thousand dollars to defray the expenses of J. L. Meek as Special Messenger to Washington City," in turn demands our attention. It is undoubtedly requisite and wise to have the United States Government informed of our critical situation, and despatch in communicating the same, would also be very commendable. Mr. Meek we understand intends going by the old route up the Columbia and across from Wallawalla to Fort Hall. He will probably start in a few days.

"An act to locate a Territorial road from Tualatin plains to Clatsop plains," passed the House. "An act to amend the currency law" passed by the following vote: *Yeas*—Crawford, Cox, Hembree, Hill, Nesmith, Plomondeau, Reese, Rector, Rogers, Robinson, White, Wilcox, Wair, and Speaker. *Nays*—Chamberlain and Ford. "A bill to regulate the practice of law in the Circuit Courts of Oregon," after being named along to a third reading finally died. "An act to define the boundary line of Polk County" and "An act to improve the Southern route to Oregon" were passed—the vote is not recorded on the passage of the first named bill, on the latter it stands: *Yeas*—Crawford, Chamberlain, Cox, Hembree, Nesmith, Rector, Reese, Plomondeau, Robinson, and Speaker. *Nays*—Ford, Rice, Rogers, Hill, Wair, and White. "A bill to extinguish the Indian title to lands in this Territory," after passing through the Committee of the Whole was extinguished. "An act to create and organize the County of Benton," "An act proposing amendments to the Organic law" making the County Clerks of the several Counties recorders thereof—"An act to divide the several counties into Road Districts,"—"An act

amendatory to an act entitled an act for assessing and collecting revenue."—"An act to define the duties of Judges of Election."—"An act to establish a Territorial road from Oregon City to the Callapohah river," were severally passed. "An act to erect a dam across Tualatin river was lost at its third reading. Resolutions were adopted relative to informing the Governor of California and our Consul at the Sandwich Islands, of the situation of our affairs and desiring aid. "A bill was passed for the collection of revenue for 1847. "A bill authorizing John McLoughlin to erect a breakwater near the Falls of the Willamette river," was indefinitely postponed by the following vote: *Yeas*—Cox, Ford, Hembree, Rice, Hill, Robinson, Rogers, Wilcox, and White. *Nays*—Crawford, Plomondeau, Rector, Reese, Wair, and Speaker. A bill of divorce was granted Eliza S. Sweet by a vote of 11 to 5. Mr. Bristow succeeded in getting his farm named "Pleasant Hill" by special enactment—important vote. Another Territorial road was located from Linn City to Yam Hill county. Another new county, made out of Champoug, to be called Linn County, was created. A bill referring the license question to the people, was indefinitely postponed. *Yeas*—Cox, Ford, Hembree, Hill, Nesmith, Plomondeau, Rector, Reese, Wair, White, and Speaker. An act providing for taking the census for 1848, and also an act to prevent the sale of firearms to Indians were passed. In our own mind it is a question whether this latter act does not license the sale, instead of preventing it, by placing the penalty so low as to render the law inefficient.

As we approach near the close of the session, the bills become much too numerous for mention in the space we have allowed for this article, therefore the most important only will be noticed. "An act to amend the Organic Law in relation to ardent spirits." "An act authorizing Wm. Hughes, and others, to construct a road across the Cascade Mountains." "A bill to amend the oath of office." "A bill to provide for the pay of the army." "An act defining the duties of Adjutant General." "A bill authorizing the Governor to appoint a Coroner in each county," with "an appropriation bill," of course, were severally passed.

The House elected A. L. Lovejoy, "Adjutant General," Joel Palmer, "Superintendent of Indian affairs," and Milton Elliott "Prosecuting Attorney," and on the evening of the 28th ult. adjourned *sine die*, after a session of twenty two days. The Rev. Mr. Roberts officiated as chaplain during the session. The legislation for 1847 costs \$1142.

CHRISTOPHER CARSON, well known to the pioneers of the west, and as Fremont's guide in his explorations of the Oregon and California territories, has been appointed Indian Agent among the tribes of his former hunting and trading grounds, at a salary of \$750 per annum.

News From The Army.

The following letter from Major Lee to the Governor, will be read with great interest, containing as it does the latest and only intelligence we have from the volunteers.

Wascopam, Dec. 26th, 1847.

SIR,—I reached this place on the evening of the 21st inst. with ten men, including Mr. Hinman, whom I met on his way to Willamette, at Wind Mountain, thirty miles below. The boats being wind bound, and hearing from Mr. Hinman that a party of the Indians and River Indians had been down and driven off some horses from the mission, and that he had left with his family soon after, thinking it unsafe to remain longer; I was induced to lead the few men that were with me, (for we had been separated by the wind, and could not get together,) and press to this place by land with all despatch, in order, if possible, to save the houses from destruction, and I am very happy to inform you that we arrived just in time—and that all is now safe. The natives immediately about this place are friendly, and hailed our arrival with much joy. Seletsa professes friendship, but I shall keep an eye on him—his men have been killing cattle, and I suspect with his consent—though he promises to make them pay for them. We have been collecting the cattle, and placing them below, in order to stop the slaughtering that has been carried on above—we have not yet learned the amount of mischief done at this place, but are getting things under way quite as well as I could have anticipated. Mr. Hinman has been of great service to me here; he leaves to-day to join his family, whom he left on the river.

We have no intelligence from Wallatpu, except Indian report, which if we may credit is awful enough. It is said that, after the murder of the whites at that place, a general council had been held, and that the Nez-perces were present by special invitation, (i.e.) the chiefs—that it was determined to make "a clean sweep" of all the Boatsmen—inclu-