

old, removed from the town in 1808. earlier than that, my sister would have been old enough to recollect the massacre.

The fact of the great length during which this girl lay apparently dead, should be a warning never to yield up a subject for burial, so long as the *feast* of life remains, and will stimulate efforts to the persevering use of means while such indications exist, however slight. The restoration of Rev. William Tenney to life and health, after he had been apparently dead three or four days, and his friends had been more than once prepared for his funeral, is a well known fact. Even his own brother was so convinced that he was dead, that he became impatient at what he thought the folly of the physician in his pertinacious attempts to restore animation.

The following account of a practice which to some extent obtains in Germany, will furnish useful hints in this country:

In order to guard against premature death, there is attached to most of the theatres in Germany, a hall, where the dead remain some time before being committed to the ground. In this hall, the body neatly attired, is laid upon a couch—before the lips is placed a mirror which the slightest breath would cloud, and between the fingers a string, which on the slightest movement causes a bell in the desk of the keeper to ring. This hall visited night and day, hourly, by vigil inspectors, AND IT IS STATED THAT NO YEAR PASSED THAT THIS HALL WAS NOT USED BY ONE OF THE DOWNSIZED CORPSES. Similar precautions should be adopted every burial place in America. Inconclusive facts conclusively indicate their necessity.



THE SPECTATOR.

AARON E. WAIT, EDITOR.—W. P. HUDSON, PRINTER.

Oregon City, Feb. 10, 1848.

The undersigned, in accepting the Editorial chair of the *Oregon Spectator*, undertakes to discharge its duties honestly, and faithfully, and with such ability as he possesses. We are aware that the publication of the paper in its increased size, in such a manner as to insure a favorable reception in an intelligent community, owing to the extreme dearth of information from abroad, requires much labor and careful attention.

The constitution of the association owning the press and materials of the *Spectator*, provides in substance that, it shall not be the organ of exclusive party politics, nor of sectarianism, and that it shall advocate temperance, good morals, &c. In such provisions we see nothing arbitrary, nothing reprehensible; but on the contrary a laudable appreciation of the feelings and sentiments of others, and a desire to make the *Spectator* a medium of communication acceptable to all of whatever political or sectarian preferences.

The *Oregon Spectator* is the only newspaper published in this Territory, and we feel that, with the news, incidents and pleasantries of the day, it should not only contain such information as would be instructive and useful, but it should also speak freely and fully of Oregon's great resources and peculiar advantages—without which it performs but a small part of its duty to the people of Oregon, and which fails to meet the reasonable expectations of the friends of Oregon abroad.

We feel our inability to make the *Oregon Spectator* what it should be; but it shall be our desire and endeavor to make it interesting to the merchant and the mariner, useful to the mechanic, and instructive and valuable to the farmer—in short, we shall use our humble powers to make it a welcome visitor to all: and while our limited abilities shall be exerted to make the *Spectator* a newspaper worthy of Oregon and her citizens, we invite and desire the assistance of the people of Oregon in assisting and encouraging it, and in contributing for its columns.

AARON E. WAIT.

We the People of Oregon.

A report has been circulated in the upper portion of the Willamette Valley and perhaps in other portions of the Territory, that the army was already abundantly supplied with provisions. We wish for the sake of those who have nobly come forward to avenge the murder of unoffending American citizens, that those reports were true, but they are not; the truth is, and we speak advisedly, the army has not to exceed twenty days' rations of flour.

A considerable quantity of meat has been obtained; there is an abundant supply of cattle in the upper country, and the army can fight its way to them; but valor can avail nothing there towards obtaining bread. What can, what shall be done? It is true that the last wheat crop of the country was extremely small, and that

the last immigration was unusually large; yet Oregon's heroic volunteers should have bread, as long as there is bread in Oregon. When the appalling news of the savage massacre of the late Dr. Whitman, his Lady, and the other American citizens reached this valley, a gloom overspread the countenance of its citizens, and out of that gloom came up a voice, deep, clear, loud, yet single—for it was the voice of all, as of one—"those brutal murders must and shall be avenged."

Doctor Whitman's mission among the Indians was a mission of love, he and his worthy associates have spent years in faithful and active endeavors to improve the mental and moral condition of those Indians, and in the midst of that mission he, his worthy lady, and twelve American citizens have fallen victims to Indian ingratitude and insatiable love of blood! Surely, "those brutal murders must and should be avenged."

Nearly five hundred of your fellow citizens have rallied at their country's call, and are advancing into the enemy's country. Shall they have bread? They have left property, and home, and friends, and relatives for the vindication of the honor of their country, and of justice, and for the punishment of crime, which to have left unpunished, would have been shameful, craven and wicked. Shall they have bread? They have gone at your bidding,—your brothers,—your sons,—your fathers—to execute the laws of earth and heaven against those who have shed innocent blood.

Shall they have bread?

War News.

Letters have been received in this city by Gov. Abernethy and Gen. Lovejoy, written by Major Lee and C. H. Defendorph, Esq., at Fort Wasco, (Dalles) January 20th, 1848. We have been kindly favored with a perusal of those letters, and submit to our readers the substance of them, so far as they relate to the military operations at that post.

It appears that, on the morning of the 8th of January some Indians were seen about two miles East of the Fort, herding the cattle and horses for the purpose of driving them off. Mr. Barlow and Mr. Bosworth immediately set out to prevent the animals from being driven off, and were followed by Major Lee and five or six horsemen, who in turn were followed by others of the company. The Indians opened the firing and continued it for about two hours, keeping at a great distance from Major Lee's party, when they retreated.

Seventeen of Major Lee's party were engaged in the skirmish, opposed to twenty-three Indians, eight of whom were Cayuses. Mr. Berry of this city, was wounded in the leg, and it was supposed that one Indian was wounded. Most of the Americans were on foot, while all the Indians were mounted.

On the morning of the 9th, a party of men started out to bring Seletza and family to the Fort; but discovering a band of fifty or sixty horses, they determined upon driving them to the Fort, which they succeeded in doing. On the 10th Seletza and family were brought to the Fort, where they have since remained. It is said that the hostile Indians have stripped Seletza of all his property, in consequence of his friendship for the Americans, and that he has been of great service to Major Lee and party.

We learn from Lieutenant Ross, who was in the skirmish above mentioned, that the Indians succeeded in driving off about 300 of the cattle left at the Dalles, owned by the Mission and immigrants. Although no mention is made of this in either of the letters above referred to, yet it is unquestionably true.

News reached this city on the 2d inst. that Major Lee had learned, that three Indians were killed in the engagement of the 8th ult.

Late News from the Army.

We hasten to lay before our readers the contents of letters lately received in this city, from the Dalles, brought by Mr. S. K. Barlow.

The thunders of war have commenced! Let them be continued until American property, and American life shall be secure upon American soil.

FORT WASCO, Jan. 25, 1848.

JOEL PALMER, Esq.

Sir, I hope you will use every exertion to forward provisions to this place, we have only enough to supply the men until the boats shall return. I wish to move forward, as we are doing no good by remaining here, and cannot move until we have a better supply of provisions.

I remain your Obed't Serv't.

C. GILLIAM.

FORT WASCO, Jan. 25, 1848.

HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE ABERNETHY,
Sir, On reaching the Cascades, I received a letter per express, from Major Lee, informing me of a skirmish which he had with a party of Cayuse Indians at this

place, and that he expected an attack upon the place daily; I immediately started with a company of fifty men and reached here on the 23rd. The main body arrived this evening.

The men are in good health and spirits, the horses are much jaded, and many of them will not be fit for service until they rest and recruit.

The hostile Indians are in the vicinity and frequently seen. Our horse guard were driven in this evening, after exchanging a shot or two, by the Indians.

I have learned that there is a party of the enemy living on the Chutes river, who have a large number of horses and cattle, many of which they have taken from this place, and from the Indians living near.

I shall leave to-morrow with as many men as can be mounted, for Chutes river, and endeavor to obtain possession of the stock they have. They will probably give us battle, as I learn from the friendly Indians that they tell them they wish to see us there and will fight us.

I wish that every exertion may be made to forward provisions to this place. I am anxious to take the field and proceed to the enemy's country, as soon as we return from the expedition to Chutes river, with the addition which will be made to the army when Lt. Col. Waters arrives I shall be enabled to proceed.

It is highly necessary that a sufficient number of men may be sent to the Cascades to protect that place and assist in making the portage of provision, &c.

I remain Your Obed't Serv't.

C. GILLIAM.

Col. 1st. Reg. O. R.

CAMP DE CHUTES, Jan. 29, 1848.

MR. SHELDON.—Sir, Immediately on the receipt of this, you will send 50 men with provisions and ammunition. Mr. Jennings will send a good supply of provisions, as we are out. The Indians will pilot the men to the upper crossing on the De Chute river. The enemy are encamped in a kanion a short distance above.

Major Lee, with a party of 18 men had a skirmish with the Indians yesterday, one Indian killed and more wounded; also, one of our friendly Indians killed. If Lt. Col. Waters has arrived, he will take command of the party. We start this morning for the place where the enemy are encamped, we shall not reach the place in time for any action to day, but are in hopes of meeting them to-morrow. Forward the provisions and ammunition as soon as possible.

Yours in haste,

(Signed) R. WILCOX,

Adjutant.

DISPATCHED TO CALIFORNIA.—Jesse Applegate, Esq. with fourteen men, started about the first inst., with despatches to the United States authorities in California, soliciting such assistance in our present difficulties as may be in the power of those authorities to render. It is understood that the Commodore in the Pacific squadron has been instructed, by the home government to render to the people of Oregon such aid as should be required.

Unless unlooked for difficulties delay Mr. Applegate, he will arrive in California by the last of the present month.—His undertaking is an arduous one—may it be attended with abundant success.

COMMISSIONERS TO THE INDIANS.—On the 3d inst. Hon. Robert Newell, and Gen. Joel Palmer, with Perrin Whitman and two other persons, left this city for the Dalles, where they will join Major Lee and proceed into the interior, for the purpose of having a "talk" with the Nez Perces chiefs, and preventing that and other neighboring tribes, from joining the Cayuses in their hostilities against the citizens of this valley.

Mrs. Newell and Lee, go to the Indians in the capacity of Commissioners.

Mr. Palmer goes in his capacity of Superintendent of Indian affairs. They carry the pipe of peace for the acceptance of all those Indians who are not implicated in the murders at Waialapu, or in the robberies of the immigrants.

Justice requires that the forces now in the field should take effective measures to prevent further aggressions upon immigrants. Stern justice and duty demand the punishment of all implicated in the late soul-sickening murders; but mercy as plainly and loudly commands, that the wrongs of the guilty should not be visited upon the innocent.

FRANCE VOLUNTEERS.—The last of the French company, under Captain Thomas McKay, left this city on the 3d inst. for the field of action. The number of the company passing through this place was about 40; which number, as we understand, was expected to be increased to about 50. The company left this place in high spirits—they will render efficient service on the battle field.

A flag emblematical of the present situation of the country—a lone star with several stripes, made by some citizens for the company, was presented to the company by their Captain, accompanied by the following short, but appropriate address: "This is the flag which you are expected to defend; and you must defend it too!" The enthusiasm of the men evinced a determination to merit a continuance of the confidence reposed in them by their commander.

INDEPENDENT MILITARY COMPANIES.

We are glad to learn that some of the people are moving in the formation of independent military companies. Wherever in the Territory there are twenty, thirty, forty or fifty men, they should organize themselves into a military company, for home protection.

The call is not now: "In peace prepare for war," but—in war prepare to defend your own, and the lives and honor of your families.

ERRATA.—In the 20th line of the letter of Gov. Abernethy, to Peter Skeen Ogden, Esq., published in the last number of the Spectator, the word "horses," appearing in a few of the first numbers, should have read—*news*.

"27.—The following letter of Peter Skeen Ogden, Esq., received too late for publication in the last number of the Spectator, was written in answer to one by Gov. Abernethy, published in that number.

The act of rescuing so many defenceless men, women, and children from the bloody and cruel grasp of savages, merits, and we believe receives the universal thanks and gratitude of the people of Oregon.

Such an act is the legitimate offspring of a noble, generous, and manly heart.

FORT VANCOUVER, 26th. Jan. 1848.

GEORGE ABERNETHY, Esq.

Gov. Oregon Territory.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your highly flattering letter of 19th inst., and the high value you lay on my services in rescuing so many fellow creatures from captivity, but the need of praise is not due to me alone, I was the mere acting agent of the Hudson's Bay Company, for without its powerful aid and influence nothing could have been effected, and to them the praise is due—and permit me to add, should unfortunately which God avert, our services be again required under similar circumstances, I trust you will not find us wanting in going to their relief.

I have the honor to remain

Yours most Respectfully,

PETER SKEEN OGDEN.

Hugh Burns, Esq., has kindly furnished us with a copy of his journal of the weather, from the 1st day of November, 1847, to the 27th of January 1848, including, which we take pleasure in laying before our readers, and for which Mr. Burns will please accept our thanks.

1847.

Nov. 1st, cold and cloudy, at sunset rain.

" 2d, some rain in the morning, the

" 3d, clear.

" 4th, clear.

" 5th, rain all day.

" 6th, rain and snow all day.

" 7th, clear.

" 8th, clear and cold, ice on the water at the house.

" 9th, clear and cold.

" 10th, clear and cold.

" 11th, clear and cold.

" 12th, cloudy.

" 13th, cloudy.

" 14th, cloudy with rain from 12 o'clock till night.

" 15th, rain in the forenoon, afternoon clear.

" 16th, clear.

" 17th, cloudy, sundown rain.

" 18th, sunrise rain, forenoon clear, hail in afternoon.

" 19th, clear.

" 20th, rain all day.

" 21st, cold rain all day.

" 22d, rain all day.

" 23d, rain all day.

" 24th, a light mist until 12 o'clock, the afternoon clear.

" 25th, clear.

" 26th, clear.

" 27th, rain.

" 28th, clear.

" 29th, rain 'till 12 o'clock, afternoon clear.

" 30th, clear all day.

Dec. 1st, clear.

" 2d, clear.

" 3d, clear.

" 4th, clear.

" 5th, some rain in the afternoon.

" 6th, clear, some hail in afternoon.

" 7th, cloudy, not much rain.

" 8th, rain, and in the afternoon snow.

" 9th, rain all day.

" 10th, cloudy, no rain.

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