

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

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 least indication of life remains, and will stimulate minds to the persevering use of means while such indications exist, however faint. The restoration of Rev. William Tunnant to life and health, after he had been apparently dead three or four days, and his friends had been more than once convened 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, furnish useful hints in this country:

In order to guard against premature burials, there is attached to most of the cemeteries in Germany, a hall, where the bodies 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 department of the keeper to ring. This hall is visited night and day, hourly, by vigilant inspectors, and it is held that no one is ever buried who is not dead by one of the supposed corpses. Similar precautions should be adopted in every burial place in America. Inadmissible facts conclusively indicate their necessity.



# THE SPECTATOR.

JAMES 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, providing 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 laudible 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 wholly 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 sustaining and encouraging it, and in contributing for its columns.

AARON E. WAIT.

**To 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 countenances 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 shall 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 crimes, which 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. Defendorf, Esq., at Fort Wascopam, (Dalle) 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.

PORT WASCOPAM, 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.

PORT WASCOPAM, Jan. 25, 1848.

HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE ABERNETHY, Esq., 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. SHELTON, 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 kaonian 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,  
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 supposed 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.

Messrs. 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 Waiilatpu, 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.

FRENCH 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 "horax," appearing in a few of the first numbers, should have read—*news*.

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, 28th. 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 meed 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, inclusive, 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 day clear.
  - " 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, sun down 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.
  - " 11th, clear all day.
  - " 12th, clear.
  - " 13th, clear.
  - " 14th, clear.
  - " 15th, clear.
  - " 16th, some rain in the afternoon.
  - " 17th, clear.
  - " 18th, clear.
  - " 19th, clear.
  - " 20th, clear.
  - " 21st, clear.
  - " 22d, clear.
  - " 23d, clear.
  - " 24th, cloudy, some rain.
  - " 25th, cloudy all day, no rain.
  - " 26th, cloudy, no rain.
  - " 27th, rain all day.
  - " 28th, rain all day.
  - " 29th, rain in the forenoon, afternoon clear.
  - " 31st, clear.
- 1848.
- Jan. 1st, clear.
  - " 2d, snow in the forenoon, afternoon cloudy.
  - " 3d, clear.
  - " 4th, clear.

- Jan. 5th, clear.
- " 6th, clear.
- " 7th, clear.
- " 8th, clear.
- " 9th, cold rain all day.
- " 10th, cloudy, some rain.
- " 11th, cloudy, some rain.
- " 12th, clear.
- " 13th, rain.
- " 14th, rain.
- " 15th, cloudy, some rain.
- " 16th, clear.
- " 17th, clear.
- " 18th, clear.
- " 19th, clear.
- " 20th, clear.
- " 21st, clear.
- " 22d, clear.
- " 23d, clear.
- " 24th, cloudy, rain at night.
- " 25th, cloudy, no rain.
- " 26th, cloudy, some rain.
- " 27th, cloudy, some rain.

We understand that last winter was unusually severe for an Oregon winter—not for its rains, but for its snow and frost.—We are informed by a gentleman who kept a journal of the weather in the winter of 1845—6 that between the first day of November and the first day of March, there were 20 rainy days, 40 clear days, the balance of the days between those times being cloudy, rainy, and clear.

We have seen ice in Oregon of a thickness not to exceed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch; this was in still water in small quantities, and the result of three days and nights of the coldest weather we have had this winter.

On the 27th ult. a Frenchman by the name of Joseph Stanfield, was arrested on a warrant issued by C. Wheeler, Esq., upon a charge of aiding and abetting in the murder of Dr. Whitman and other Americans at Waiilatpu. The examination occupied the most of the two succeeding days, and resulted in binding over the accused for trial, at the next term of the Circuit Court for Clackamas County.

The substance of the testimony tending to sustain the charge in the complaint, was as follows:—Mrs. Saunders, and Mrs. Hays, testified, that the accused told them that, he knew on the morning of the murders that they were about to be committed.

Mrs. Kimble testified, that the accused told her that he knew, sometime before the murders were committed, that they would be committed. Mrs. Kimble further testified, that she inquired of the accused, why he did not let it be known that the Indians intended to kill the Americans, so as to have enabled them to defend themselves, or make their escape; and that he replied, that the Americans were so few that it would have been of no use.

The packages of goods brought here by the accused, were examined in the presence of the court, and several articles in them were identified by the witnesses as being their property and the property of those who had been murdered. The accused was detected on the day of his arrest in attempting to bury a watch; which watch was brought into court and identified as the property of Mrs. Kimble. On the evening after the examination, as we are informed, 55 dollars in bills of the banks of the State of New York, part of 75 dollars which the accused had been seen to have, and being the same kind of money as 65 dollars left by him with Gov. Abernethy, as having belonged to Mr. Hoffman in his lifetime, was found secreted near the place where the watch was attempted to be buried.

For the Oregon Spectator.

MR. EDITOR.—There is an item or two set forth in the last number of the Spectator, which I think calculated to mislead the public.

In the second paragraph of the late Editor's valedictory the public are led to believe, that there has been a great change in the ownership of the press, since the Editor first entered on his duties. It is true that one of the stockholders owns a number of shares, about one third of the whole stock; but he purchased those shares and paid for them in cash before the late Editor came into Oregon Territory—not that he wanted to own a large amount of the stock, but because no one else would purchase and relieve the press from the embarrassments, it was laboring under at that time. In that respect therefore the Spectator has not ceased to be owned and controlled by a number of our fellow citizens, since the late editor commenced his duties.

Another thing that will show the change spoken of has not been made to the extent the article would lead one to believe, will be found in the fact, that there has been no material change in the Board; the same persons that were in the Board when the late Editor was chosen, are in the board now with two exceptions, and one of them, John H. Couch, left this for the United States, and therefore could not be re-elected.

As to the muzzling of the press. It is all before the public, and they can see how far any attempt was made to muzzle the press.

It would be well for the public to know of a few things. Mrs. Thornton resides in this place. The resolutions were passed by the Legislature. The Board do not wish the Spectator to be made a vehicle to injure any persons feeling unconcerned. As to the insinuations, contained in the few late numbers of this paper, I do not feel called upon to make any reply to them—but can assure the public that no individual in the Board has any intention (as far as I know the members composing the Board) to dictate or control the Editor or to advocate any "peculiar doctrines or opinions" beyond what is set forth in the preamble to the constitution of the Oregon Printing Association which requires that the paper promote science, temperance, morality and general intelligence." I hope however the paper will hereafter advocate all the departments, and thus fulfill the wishes of those who sent for the press.

ONE OF THE BOARD.

FORT VANCOUVER, 31st. Dec. 1847.

GEORGE ABERNETHY, Esq.,  
Gov. Oregon.

Sir,—A rumour having been circulated for some days past, that General Gilliam's intention to levy contributions on the Hudson Bay Company's property, for the purpose of completing the equipment of the troops ordered out in your late proclamation for the intended operations against the Indians of the interior, I feel it my duty to communicate to you frankly on the subject; as it is most important in the present critical state of our Indian relations that there should be an entire absence of distrust, and that the most perfect unanimity should exist among the whites of every class.

From my personal knowledge of General Gilliam and his highly respectable character, I should be the last person to believe him capable of committing an outrage, which may prove so disastrous to the immediate and remote consequences to the peace and best interests of the country; at the same time, as the representative of a powerful British Association becomes my duty, to take instant measures for the protection of their property, until I receive, through you, a distinct avowal of any such intention, as I have herein stated.

Difficulties of that nature were not contemplated by us, when we patched a large part of our effects into the interior for the purpose of relieving the unfortunate survivors of the massacre of the late winter. I have no objection to your making any use of the information which I have here stated, and I trust that you will be satisfied with the explanation which I have here given. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. P. H. B. Co.

Oregon City, 3rd. Jan. 1848.

Sir,—I received your favor of 31st. ult. yesterday evening, and in answering it would thank you for your frankness in communicating with me on the subject.

Having had conversation with Col. Gilliam on this subject, I can state, that he has no objection to levying contributions on the Hudson Bay Company's property, for any purpose whatever. He will probably cross the Columbia river at the mouth of the Sandy.—I trust nothing will occur that will in any way cause distrust among the whites, during this crisis.

The reports from above lead to the conclusion, that Messrs. Spalding, Walker and Kells, have been cut off, and the women and children spared in the first place, have since been murdered, should those rumors prove true, we know that peace cannot be restored between the Indians and whites, without bloodshed. Capt. Lee informs me that Mr. Ogden paid the Indians powder and balls for making the portage.—The Legislature passed an act during their last session, prohibiting the sale of powder, lead, caps, &c. to Indians. I trust you will see the necessity of complying with this act, it will be published in the next number of the Spectator.

I trust the disavowal in this letter will prove satisfactory to you.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,  
Your Obed't Serv't,  
GEORGE ABERNETHY,  
Gov. of Oregon Territory.  
To JAMES DOUGLAS, Esq.,  
C. P. H. B. Co.

FORT VANCOUVER, 4th Jan. 1848.

GEORGE ABERNETHY, Esq.,  
Gov. Oregon Territory.

Sir,—I have to acknowledge your letter of yesterday's date and consider it perfectly satisfactory.

I place little confidence in the late reports from the Dalles, and materials sanguine hopes that they will prove unfounded. Whenever we receive intelligence from the interior, I will lose no time in communicating the same to you.

The Indians have been always paid with Ammunition and Tobacco, by our travelling parties, for passing boats at the portages of this river, and I cannot see that Mr. Ogden had any reason to depart from the established practice on the coast.