

OREGON SPECTATOR

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its way,"

Vol. 3.

Oregon City, (Oregon Territory,) May 4, 1848.

Mr. Bedwell will perceive, that we have omitted to publish so much of his communication as does not particularly refer to us, or to the pastoral mandate and letter, of the Arch Bishop of Oregon City, published in the 3d No. of the present volume of the Spectator.

We regret that the publication of those documents gave offence to any of our readers. From some time prior to the publication of them to the present time, this territory has been engaged in a war, in which all the men and means, that could be obtained, have been needed for the prosecution of the war.

These documents admitted the justice and necessity of a prosecution of the war; we knew the high respect, which Catholics generally entertained for the opinions of their spiritual advisers, and we hoped that those opinions, publicly expressed and published, would give that harmony and union of sentiment and action, in the prosecution of the war, which was so much required. These are some of the principal reasons which induced us to publish those documents—they may have been among the reasons which induced their being handed to us for publication.—Again, if those documents advanced doctrines, and declared them to be the doctrines of the Catholic church, they did not denounce the doctrines of any other church. The following communication is less exceptionable, upon the score of sectarianism, than the documents above referred to; but we publish it, 1st, because it complains of us, and 2d, because it is in answer to a communication published in this paper. We have not the honor of an acquaintance with Mr. Bedwell, but we take this occasion to say to him, and to our patrons generally, that it is our intention that the influence of the Spectator, so far as its influence may extend, shall be a moral influence. As an individual we have what every man is entitled to—honest party political and sectarian views; while these are intended to be unknown to the Spectator, we intend, that the Spectator shall understand the other great interests of Oregon, and its citizens.

For the Oregon Spectator.

MR. EDITOR—We have often congratulated ourselves upon the happiness of reading a newspaper published in Oregon Territory. It makes us feel as though we had not even here, gone beyond the bounds of civilized humanity. Nor would we be without so eligible, and easy a means of conveying all the authentic and important intelligence throughout the country, for any reasonable consideration. There are also many other reasons for highly prizing, and greatly desiring such a vehicle in any community; and one of paramount importance, is its literary use to a young and rising generation.

Doubtless the most of your patrons are men of families, and greatly desire that nothing immoral, or vicious should contaminate the pages of your very excellent periodical; for if it did, its baneful and lasting influences would be felt in every cottage in our beloved Oregon.

And more especially, as there is but one periodical in the country, its Editor occupies both a dignified, and critical position; moulding the destiny, to a certain extent, of the entire population.

Well, we are pleased with your paper, in the general, even beyond our most sanguine anticipations, (for we had no personal acquaintance with the Editor,) and yet we have a fault to find. But by what adjective it might be most conspicuously designated, I presume not to say. We will, however, decipher it by circumlocution.

A newspaper of ordinary promise, does tacitly promise to be ecclesiastic or theological; and it furnishes, at least, some grounds of complaint, when theological communications are thrust into the columns of your otherwise excellent paper, and thus throw upon your patrons a species of divinity, which in their hearts they despise; and this is my complaint against the third No. of the Spectator.

The population for whom you write, in both America and Protestant, with perhaps a few exceptions; and is it treating such a population with justice and respect, to crowd your columns with such an amount of Popish theology?

And in addition to these considerations, why all this public show? Why oblige in these Saint washed advices for the pe-

rials of the whole country, when they only purport to be written for the Roman Catholic Church?

True dignity and honor require no such props to vindicate their innocency.

And besides all this, the communications themselves abound with the most preposterous and superstitious misapprehensions of sacred things. When we want Popish divinity, we will subscribe for it; or borrow it from those who keep it to loan; and when we want politics, we will call on your honor, (as we have done,) and we wish to have each dish served up by itself; for they do not bear to be mixed, being incompatible substances. This clerical adviser informs us that God is, or has been sending diseases of a multifarious and fearful character upon brute animals, for our sins; and finally (in direct reference to the horrid murder of the much lamented Doctor Whittman, and others,) that He has ("being irritated") determined to punish us "in our own persons."—Was this murder because God had "determined to punish us for our own sins, in our own persons?" If this is the work of God, I should like to know what I am to regard as the works of the Devil.

O, what a condition our country would be in, were it not for the Pope's clergy; God Almighty would kill our cattle by diseases, curse our ground with scarcity, and murder us all by savage hands—punishing us "in our own persons," for our own sins!!

Prayers to St. Peter and catholic penance, never made this country; nor do they maintain the health, the productivity, or the harmony of it. Neither do we believe, that the Almighty set up "all the powers on this earth," and St. Paul asserts no such thing—he had reference to the Roman political government alone, which he intended to make a praise to the virtuous, and a terror to those, who disregard the common rights, and interests of man. "The powers that be;" that is, those which then existed, when he wrote.

This is not the first time, that that denomination has labored to use the Spectator, if we have been correctly informed; but they were not admitted to impose their divinity on a protestant community until the present volume commenced. Now sir, we are quite pleased with your editorial abilities, and course, this one error excepted, and we ask not penance, but reformation; and hope, that your sense of justice and of propriety, will prompt you to refuse sectarian divinity; but if you do not, I have a good protestant neighbor who wishes to appear in your columns.

ELISHA BEDWELL.

For the Oregon Spectator.

A Voice from Yamhill County. MR. EDITOR.—No portion of the citizens of the United States occupy, in a political and domestic point of view, so peculiar and uncertain a position, as those who reside in Oregon Territory. And notwithstanding a diversity of opinions as to what the general Government will probably do for us, and what would be best for ourselves; yet I believe that four fifths and perhaps even a greater majority of the citizens of the Territory would unite in any one system of means and measures that could be shown to be beneficial, practicable, and just.

Donations of land have long been anticipated, and no doubt will be granted to all actual settlers west of the Rocky Mountains; and we are also anticipating, by packet ships or otherwise, the announcement of the Intelligence, that donations are granted and how much.

It is also well known, that liberal bills have been before both houses of Congress; and that influential members of Congress have encouraged their private friends by private letters, and *vice versa*, to emigrate to this country, under the assurance that liberal donations of land would be granted to all bona fide occupants; and consequently many came, who but for these encouragements would have been in the solace of ease and plenty at their old houses, which they sold for a song without a tune; and are for the time being, living on hope alone.

The bills introduced into Congress, have been such as to justify the belief, that six hundred and forty acres of land would be the amount given; and in conformity to that, our own provisional government has secured to each occupant a claim on 640 acres. The general voice of the people living in the Territory, calls for that much; and I believe would be satisfied with it,

notwithstanding we are aware that there are some dwarf spirits in our community, that desire no more than a quarter section; having probably never owned any land, they would be quite satisfied with a forty or fifty acre lot. But the souls of most of our fellow citizens have grown larger; their desires are consequently more capacious, and cannot, all things considered, be satisfied with less than one whole section. And we are now in possession of that quantity of land, and as it is somewhat uncertain, from eastern influences, what quantity will be donated; would it not be wise in us to provide against contingencies?

If air, it should be announced that only three hundred and twenty acres were granted to every head of a family; the other half of each claim would be instantly jumped, leaving the claimant on the inferior half of his land, as often as otherwise; together with the loss of a portion of his labor, in many instances. Such a state of things is greatly to be deprecated; and though I have in common with my fellow citizens felt the smart, and experienced inconvenience and embarrassment of the present Indian war; yet I would prefer just such another, after the existing one is concluded, to the condition our beloved country would be in.

It is useless to expatiate on the almost universal, and interminable enmity and strife, which would prevail in every neighborhood; between saints and sinners of every grade, high and low, rich and poor, ignorant and wise. What a disruption of all those ligaments which bind society together! Nor would the breach of friendship be repaired, it would *live as long as the parties lived*, and be handed along to posterity.

Now is there no way to escape so dreadful a disaster, so great a calamity? Surely, surely, if the people say so; the object can at once be accomplished. The *sovereign people*, have the right, and I believe they have the will, if those to whom they look for suggestions and arrangements, would vigilantly and promptly discharge their duty.

Suppose then, Mr. Editor, that at the next June election, a column is opened for and against a legislation to secure to each claim holder 640 acres of land, as he now holds it, until the lands of this Territory are brought into market; and that the legislature be instructed to memorialize Congress, (provided only 320 acres of land should be donated) to grant to the claim holder a pre-emption right on the other half of his section, at the minimum price, and thereby give to the occupant an opportunity of purchasing the balance of his six hundred and forty acres, as he now holds it.

Such a legislation in prospect, as would secure to each man the quiet and un molested possession of his entire claim, until the lands were brought into market, would but be doing justice to the expectations of this whole community,—whilst its neglect would be doing great injustice to ourselves. And provided the general government should not grant pre-emption rights, as above suggested, the claimant would have an opportunity of getting choice of halves, and of trading the other half to his own satisfaction, so it could be occupied amicably. Such a law would be a great peace maker.

Justice to ourselves requires that something be done; harmony and good order of society also require it; and it is altogether practicable.

That it would be beneficial to all, and injurious to none, will not be denied by any gentleman of any intellectual calibre whatever.

I repeat, that justice requires these precautionary measures, to secure to any and every man his home, unmolested and uninjured.

It is a notorious fact that many gentlemen now in Oregon, sold first rate farms for a bear outfit to this country—disposed of their farming utensils—household furniture and numerous other articles of convenience, for a mere trifle; and are now almost entirely destitute, unable to help themselves—with crippled and depressed spirits; chafed with the keen remembrance of better days—still struggling with adversity, hoping that at least, a liberal donation of land, may to some partial extent, compensate for all these sufferings and perplexities.

They too, remember the dangers, the difficulties, the anxieties, and the unheeded tolls, which the move to this country

cost them; and who is stupid enough, or vile enough, in the face of all these stubborn facts, to say that justice does not demand for each settler 640 acres of land?

Nor would it prevent the country from being densely populated. How soon would tracts of land be divided and sold to more opulent emigrants; enabling the poor pioneer to pay his debts, and purchase a new suit for himself and his half naked family. It would make many respectable and useful citizens, and give a grace and consequence to families who are incapable of rising superior to their circumstances.

But, did we regard it only as a peace measure, such a legislation would be worth all the trouble and expense incident to its accomplishment. Who can estimate the value of peace, in a whole community; and a community too, as isolated as ours—cut off from all the other nations of the earth, and as yet, thrown entirely upon our own scanty resources.

And remember that when the general peace, and amicable relations, and intercourse are destroyed, the morals of society are also destroyed.

One suggestion more. Query—would it not be better to convene the legislature, to consider these matters immediately? VOX POPULI.

P. E. If you or your patrons should have any thing better to propose, we should be proud to see it, anon; do not withhold it. V. P.

Public Meeting.

In pursuance of previous notice the citizens of Clatsop convened at the house of Mr. Raymond, for the purpose of ascertaining how many persons could be obtained to volunteer for the service of the army in the Indian country. A. E. Thompson being called to the chair, and G. W. Ball deputed to act as secretary. Col. Taylor was called upon to explain the object of the meeting; after which a few pertinent remarks were severally made by Messrs. Hall, Raymond and Taylor.

On motion of Col. Taylor, a committee of three persons was appointed to obtain all the arms and ammunition that can be obtained in this settlement for the use of our army, and deposit the same at this place by 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.—Messrs. Owens, Kindred and Condit were appointed said committee; after which the following preamble and resolution was introduced by Col. Taylor and unanimously adopted—

Whereas, fears are entertained by many of our citizens now in the army, of losing their land claims by being jumped by other persons—

Therefore, Resolved, That we, citizens of Clatsop county, feel called upon to repel any such attempt to take the advantage of those who are fighting the battles of our country, for our protection and rights—and that we will endeavor to hold inviolable all our soldier's claims, while they remain in the service of the country.

On motion, Resolved, That all who feel willing to go into their country's service by enlisting in the army, come forward and enter their names; whereupon, the following persons handed in their names—S. B. Hall, D. H. Trinder, John Richey, R. W. Morrison, N. A. Everman. The following resolution being introduced by Mr. Thompson was unanimously adopted—

Resolved, That while we view with entire approbation the war waged with the murderers of our fellow citizens, and sincerely desire a vigorous prosecution of the same, we sincerely hope that when our army calls upon us for donations of ammunition and provisions, that they are not to be spent in inactivity and Don Quixotic battles, but will be used in bringing the war to speedy close, by a total extermination, if necessary, of the whole Cayuse tribe, without show of mercy.

Resolved, That the company leave for the place of rendezvous at 9 o'clock to-morrow morning, or as soon thereafter as possible.

On motion, it is adopted that a copy of these proceedings be furnished each of the newspapers printed at Oregon City.

On motion, the meeting adjourned, sine die. A. E. THOMPSON, Chairman.

G. W. BALL, Sec'y.

April 13th, 1848.

WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH THEM?—It is estimated the number of emigrants to the United States and British Colonies for 1847, would exceed 400,000.

Agreeably to arrangements at a previous meeting the members of the "Improved Rifle Company, of the northwest part of Linn County, met at the house of James Knox, Esq. for training, and shooting a Captain, First Lieutenant, Orderly Sergeant, and one Duty Sergeant, to fill the place of those whose time had expired. After the exercises were over, the Company returned to the house, and proceeded to business.

The Company being called to order by Anderson Cox, Esq. and the object of the meeting being briefly stated by Granville H. Baber, it was moved and supported that officers be elected to fill the places of J. M. McConnell, Captain; G. H. Baber, First Lieutenant; Anderson Cox, Orderly Sergeant; and Jeremiah Driggs, Duty Sergeant, resigned.

Whereupon, Granville H. Baber was duly elected Captain; Jeremiah Driggs, First Lieutenant; J. M. McConnell, Orderly Sergeant; and Isaac Thompson, Duty Sergeant.—Peter Smith and Wm. Stephens, not resigned.

On motion of Wm. Stephens it was moved and carried that this Company be named the Washington Guards of Linn County.

On motion of Anderson Cox, Esq. it was moved and seconded, that some person be appointed to give the Editor of the Oregon Spectator, the proceedings of the meeting, with the request to have it published in his paper. Whereupon Wm. Stephens was duly elected to do said business. Also it was thought best that his Excellency the Governor, be requested to commission said officers.

WM. STEPHENS.

April 13th, 1848.

Downy.—The best dowry to advance the marriage of a young lady is, when she has in her countenance mildness; in her speech wisdom; in her behaviour modesty; and in her life virtue.—Punnett's Epithets.

A young girl, about seven years of age, was asked by an atheist, how large she supposed her God to be; to which she, with admirable readiness, replied, "He is so great the heavens cannot contain Him, and yet so kindly condescending, as to dwell in my little heart."

The epithets applied to the principal cities of Italy, are as follows:—Rome, the holy; Naples, the noble; Venice, the rich; Padua, the learned; Bologna, the fat; Milan, the grand; Ravenna, the antique; Leghorn, the mercantile; Verona, the charming; Lucca, the polished; Florence, the beautiful; Genoa, the superb.

By rubbing red hot iron with the horn of a sheep, it will be coated with a durable and shining black varnish.

"There are various keys," said a young man to another, such as sul-key, bul-key and hi-key, but the only key to your heart is su-key."

"It may be so," replied the other, "but I defy anything to reach your heart but whi-key."

AGRICULTURAL.

JOHNSON ON FERTILIZERS. From the New York Farmer & Mechanic. Use of Salt as a Fertilizer. CONCLUDED.

Salt with other Manures. Salt and Lime.—With a mixture of salt and lime, a manure is gradually formed of a most powerful description. It promises now, through the successful example of Mr. Bennett and Sir C. Burrell, to be very generally adopted. It is difficult to account for the neglect of this manure, on any other ground than the difficulties which were so long thrown in the farmer's way, by the long continued tax upon salt. That it is not a novel plan for enriching the land is quite certain. Glauber, an celebrated German chemist, one of the last of his craft nearly two centuries since, when he said, "The soil is made, (common salt), as it is of itself, by reason of its corroding virtues, which it as yet retains, plainly unfit for the multiplication of vegetable, for that being so used would prove more hurtful than profitable. Upon this account it is necessary that to one part of it be added two parts by weight of the best calyx vine (lime), which being moistened with water and made into balls, are to be well heated red-hot for an hour, that so all the coarseness being interverted, the soil is made fit for an universal medicine; for it consumes its attracting force, and loath it not in the heating red-hot."—Glauber's Works, by Fuchs, p. 3, 47.

Christopher Pacha, who, in 1800, published in English Glauber's five volumes, dwells at considerable length in his production upon this mixture of salt and lime: "For the enriching of poor and barren

land, it is the cheapest of all manures, and is most easy to be done; for the preparation having no admixture of any thing so poisonous as to endanger the soil, may be promiscuously used on any soil."

Salt and lime was used on a manure by Mr. Mitchell, of Ayr, many years since, and he not knowing what others had done with this fertilizer before his time, called upon himself to be the discoverer. He then describes his process:

Take 20 bushels of lime, and stack it with sea-water, previously boiled to the saturated state. This quantity is sufficient for an acre of ground, and may be either thrown out of the stack, or stirred over the land in the above state, or made into compost with 60 loads of manure or earth, in which state it will be found to pay fully for the additional labor, and is sufficient for an acre of better ground, though over as reduced below. In some places peats are made and composed of lime, mineral alkali, in an unsaturated state, also marl and carbonate of soda. All the experiments have done well with it, but especially wheat and beans; and it has not been tested any manure with which it has been compared. There is one instance in which it was tried in comparison with 75 cart-loads of manure's waste and dung; and although this was an extraordinary dressing, yet that with this salt and lime manure was fully above the average of the field.

Mr. Mitchell calculates that 2000 gallons of sea-water, will stack 64 bushels of shell lime. (These 2000 gallons of sea-water will contain about 700 lbs. of common salt.) A quantity sufficient for five acres. The expense of carrying the water from the sea, the evaporator, &c., he adds, will cost 50s. The 64 bushels of lime-stone cost him 40s. or 57s. for two acres.

The use of this mixture of salt and lime was also noticed in the year 1800, by Mr. Hollinghead, of Cheshire, in Lancashire, who observes: "Lime prepared for manure should be washed with sea-water or salt water; but if washed with fresh water, it will be a double loss." And he adds, Mr. James Huxley, of Andover, in Cheshire, when giving an account of the use of a mixture of sea-salt and lime, says: "I have found that, by mixing it with water instead of sea-water, the portion of the field on which it is used is more fertile than that on which the watered soil was compared, and it may be well to remember, that the celebrated salt soil of Padbury Harbor is composed of 64 per cent. of carbonate of lime; and that, in the experiments of the late Rev. Edmund Cartwright, upon potatoes, of 80 measures, or mixtures of manure, salt and lime were found superior in their product of potatoes to sixteen others.

Every farmer has it in his power, even in the most inland situations, to procure this most excellent manure for the use of his farm, by means of a mixture of two parts of lime and one part of common salt, and suffer it to remain in a shallow place, or covered with soil, for 3 or 4 months; a plan which I suggested some years since.—(Linnæus, on salt, p. 28, 2d ed.)

By this process, a gradual decomposition takes place, particles of lime and soda are formed, the whole mass gradually becoming saturated with alkali. There is another advantage to be derived from the adoption of this process, besides the formation of soda, viz., that the mixture of lime is one of the most deliquescent or moisture-absorbing substances, with which we are acquainted; and in consequence whenever it exists in a soil, the water of the sun has, in summer, much less to do on it than it would otherwise have.

I would especially warn those who try the effect of a mixture of salt and lime, to attend carefully to the directions I have given them, and not, as some farmers have done, to use the mixed salt and lime immediately, before any decomposition has taken place. After it has been well stirred together in a dry state, it should be allowed to remain two or three months undisturbed, and then apply at the rate of from 50 to 60 bushels per acre, either by sowing it out of a good basket, or mixed with earth and spread in the usual way. It is necessary to give the mixture time, since the decomposition proceeds very slowly, and is not to be hastened by any simple process.

Salt and Soda.—Salt has never been employed with other substances so advantageously as it might. I have used it for potatoes, mixed with earth, shell-compost, and with soot, with the most decided success; the places where it has been thus applied being much superior, both in appearance and produce.

The mixture of salt with cast produce the most remarkable effects, especially when treasured into ground prepared for carrots. Mr. G. Bennett found that when the soil, unmanured, produced very little more than one bushel per acre, that when it was fertilized with a mixture of only one bushel of salt and a half of lime, and six and a half of soot, yielded forty tons per acre. Mr. Bennett described the manner of its application for wheat. And Mr. Cartwright found that when the soil, unmanured, yielded only one bushel of potatoes, that, by mixing it with a mixture of thirty bushels of salt, made it produce per acre 500 bushels.