

OSCAR S. WARD, EDITOR.—W. A. BURNES, PRINTER.

Oregon City, May 4, 1848.

Amendment of the Organic Law, Touching the Manufacture or Sale of Ardent Spirits.

The great argument advanced by the opponents of the temperance cause, against signing a temperance pledge, and prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors, has been, and is, that they deprive a man of his natural rights.

We referred to this argument in the last number of the Spectator, and refer to it again, because we wish to remove this great error, and stumbling-block in the cause of temperance.

If we are correct in these positions, nothing is more clear, than that the people of Oregon should vote, so to amend the organic law, so that a succeeding legislature may abolish the legal use of ardent spirits, as a beverage.

This intemperance is a vice, none will honestly deny; if intemperance is permitted by, and is in accordance with the natural rights of man, then, it is not a vice, but a virtue.

An adjourned meeting of the Temperance society of this city, will be held at the Methodist Church, on Monday evening next, when the Hon. C. Lancaster will address the meeting.

We call attention to the advertisement of the new stock of goods, by H. Clark, Esq. to be seen in another column.

There has been no arrivals of ships since our last, and no foreign news.

We invite the attention of our readers, to the communication of the Rev. Patrick J. McCormick, upon the subject of temperance, and the course which the people of Oregon ought to pursue at the approaching election.

estimated by British statesmen to have been 600,000, and the Rev. Theobald Mathew stated in an address during the famine, that sufficient bread stuff were devoured in the distilleries, to give every man, woman, and child, in Ireland, a single meal every day!

Can the flood-gates of intemperance be shut against the people of Oregon?—The people of Oregon can do it, and they are morally bound to do it.

It may be said, that great moral questions are best advanced by appeals to the understanding, unaided by legal enactments, and that this is in accordance with the free-agency conferred by the Deity, upon man.

We learn from Arch. McKinlay, Esq. that letters have been received from Capt. Grant of Fort Hall, and Wm. McBean, Esq. of Fort Walla Walla; by which it appears that J. L. Meek, Esq. reached Ft. Hall on the 22 of March, and immediately resumed his journey.

We are also indebted to the Rev. Wm. Roberts for items of late news from California, &c. &c. appearing in another column, signed "R."

"VOX POPULI."—The communication of "Vox Populi," is published with pleasure. The author takes a clear view of his subject, and in our opinion a correct view, unless perhaps, it be in his modus operandi of securing the rights of the citizens of Oregon.

Up to the time of our paper going to press, we hear nothing immediately from the army. The fact that no intelligence has reached this valley from the army, since the letters of Capt. Maxon, and Col. Waters, published in our last, is strong evidence that no harm has befallen the troops at Fort Waters, or those under Capt. Maxon on their way to Fort Waters.

Capt. Maxon and company left Fort Wascopam with 50 barrels of flour, and sufficient ammunition for immediate use. Col. Lee and the recruits will be able to take with them about an equal amount of flour, and a better supply of ammunition than the army has before had.

UNITED STATES TROOPS.—We hope the rumor that U. S. troops left Fort Leavenworth last fall, for Oregon, is true, but we are constrained to doubt its truth.

vice, at the time Mr. Campbell saw the President, or if such troops were about to be raised, or if they were then on the way, the President would have told Mr. Campbell, as a citizen of Oregon about to return home, what had been done, not what would be done for Oregon, or what would then be done, not what would be done next season.

A few of the things which we would like to see.

We would like to see the people of Oregon give some attention to the culture of fruit trees, and particularly of the apple; because Oregon will be called upon to supply the citizens of California, the Islands of the Pacific, and those engaged in commerce upon the Pacific, with this fruit.

We would be glad to see silk-producing introduced into Oregon. We are not aware that the Mulberry grows here, but the seed could be brought, and it would seem, that the even temperature of the climate, the purity of the atmosphere, and the dryness of the summer, render this country peculiarly adapted to the successful operations of the silk-worm.

We would be glad to see the Alpaca brought into Oregon. They have been taken into New England, and New York, in considerable numbers, where they not only thrive, but they are much more highly valued than sheep.

We would be glad to see the merchants of Oregon reduce the price of their goods, or other merchants come in, to create a competition.

We would be glad to see (or rather, the stockholders would,) the old subscriptions for the Spectator, paid up; and we would be glad to see the present volume of the Spectator sent to about 1,000 subscribers.

News.

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ended by an Indian war, which never would have occurred if suitable protection had been extended, may be considered a faithful history of Oregon.

We think we see a difficulty in the remedy which "Vox Populi" proposes. Let us examine. Suppose that there is a law of this compact already in existence, (which would do away with the necessity of convening the Legislature, or of voting as proposed) by which every claim-holder in Oregon was permitted to hold 640 acres of land, until Congress should donate to him the amount so held, or in case Congress should donate but 320 acres, then, until Congress could be memorialized to grant pre-emption right to the remaining 320 acres.

CANDIDATE FOR REPRESENTATIVE.—Our readers in Tualatin county, will perceive by reference to another part of this paper, that Samuel R. Thurston, Esq. has been nominated as a candidate for member of the next Legislature, from Tualatin county.

Our readers have probably heard that the U. S. ship of war Jamestown, left Boston in March 1847, for Cork, laden with provisions donated to the then famishing population of Ireland, but they may not be aware of the glorious victory obtained in that enterprise.

Glorious Victory!—City of Cork taken.

The U. S. ship of war Jamestown, Capt. Forbes, which left Boston on the 29th of March, loaded with provisions, arrived at Cork on the 12th April, after a splendid passage of only fifteen days.

tion, not a soul in the house escaping, but every one receiving a complete belly-full. Still the battle waged, and still the Irish troops received the heavy fire from the batteries of Jamestown, with a heroism and devotion which none but such soldiers could stand under and live.

Thus has Corn and Wheat achieved another great victory, and crowned the brows of our brave soldiers with never fading laurels.

For the Spectator.

On the Evils of Drunkenness, and the Benefits of Temperance.

I address myself to the civilized portion of the people of Oregon, who have, during their entire life, been continually conversant with the civilized world, and who look upon the Bible, as it truly is, the precious gift of the word of God, second in value, perhaps, to none of His other divine gifts, except that of His Divine Son, who has shed his precious blood for our redemption.

For the Oregon Spectator.

THURSDAY MORNING, MAY 4, 1848.

MR. EDITOR—I have just returned from an excursion up the Valley. When a few miles this side of Mary's river on Monday last, we were overtaken by a party of 5 men, under the direction of Mr. John Saxton, just arrived from California.

gones to be necessary to the intoxication of a fellow-creature; to deprive a man of his reason by which he is distinguished from the brute; to banish the grace of God from his soul, and thus deliver him up a defenceless prey to unclean spirits: "for when the one evil spirit of drunkenness possesses a man, he goeth and taketh with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and entering in they dwell there, and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first, as drunkenness is not unfrequently attended with murder, debauchery and other enormous crimes.

Nor are persons to imagine that they are not sometimes accountable for sins which they commit when drunk. They cannot exculpate themselves before God, by alleging that they knew not what they were doing.

Let all observe this same fact, a drunkenness will universally and forever cease.—Patience, crime, sickness, insanity, wretchedness and premature death, will, to a great extent, be prevented. Health, Virtue and happiness will be increased; human life prolonged; the gospel more widely extended and generally embraced; God be more highly honored, mankind edified, and souls in greater numbers saved.

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