"Let us reason together."

In another portion of the paper, will be found the proceedings of a meeting of a portion of the citizens of Clackamas county, for the purpose of organizing an association, for the protection of the land claims of those who might become its members. An adjourned meeting, for the same object, was held in this city last Saturday, which we attended, and gave some reasons why an association, upon the basis proposed, ought not to be entered into by any of the citizens of Oregon. We should not then have thrust our opinions upon the meeting, nor should we now before the public, except that the matter is one of grave and general importance. If we are in error, we hope to be convinced of it; if some of our fellow-citizens are in error, we desire that they should become convinced—with this object, the columns of the Spectator are open for the courteous discussion of both sides of this question. In a spirit of kindness, we ask our fellow-citizens of Clackamas county, and throughout the territory, that before entering into such an association, they carefully consider, and honestly weigh its objects, its effects and its consequences.

We regard such an association as revolutionary, and dangerously pernicious in its tendencies. It proposes to establish a board of arbitrators, who are to adjudicate upon all matters relating to the land claims of those who belong to the association, and enforce its decisions,—whether the opposite claimant belongs to the association or not, and whether both parties consent to the arbitration or not—a mode of proceeding unknown to any law of civilized countries, and in contravention of the known laws of this territory.

By reference to a communication over the signatures of most of the citizens of Linn City, it will be seen to be charged, that some of the advocates of the association have declared their intention to overthrow the government, if necessary to do so in order to carry their plans into effect!! But we hope, for the credit of those referred to, that there is some mistake in this matter. We hope there is no man in Oregon so deep in the mire of moral and political degradation, as to be guilty of the soul-sinking crime of treason against the government of his creation or adoption! If treason is a crime when exercised against a strong government, where life would pay the forfeit of the offence, then it is morally an hundred times increased where it is exercised against a weak government. In justice to the friends of the association, we feel bound to say, that we have heard none of them express a desire to overthrow the government; indeed, many of them are incapable of so base a project; but if such avowals have been made by any one, he should be branded as a Cain, and his name given to the winds and to posterity—the climax of all scorn. We are constrained to say, that the tendencies of such an association, are revolutionary and pernicious, and we trust that "the second sober thuught" of its friends, will satisfy them that they cannot proceed without an infraction of the rights of their fellows, and therefore abandon their project. A revolution may be bloody, or it may be bloodless. Any fundamental change in a government, not made in accordance with the mode prescribed by the laws of that government, amounts to a revolution. The Organic Law provides for the establishment of courts, for the adjudication of all matters in difference which may arise in the territory, and it secures to all citizens the right of trial in those courts. No citizen can be rightfully debarred from a trial in those courts. The judicial department is one of the main functions of this government, without which it would necessarily cease to exist; yet the proposed association, in contravention and in defiance of all law, proposes to clothe M. M. McCarver and associates, with vestments filched from the judiciary department, and to over-ride and subvert that department, with right of trial by jury, in all cases where a member of the association is concerned; and this is called "carrying out the spirit of the Organic law"!

"O flesh, how art thou fishified!"

If an association, with such objects, is revolutionary in its tendency, as we deem it to be, then, if such associations become general throughout the territory, the territory will have revolutionized, and thrown off all legal obligation to pay her debts. No new government is legally bound for the payment of the debts of the old government. England may pay her national debt to-day by revolution. The new government may assume and pay the debts of the old one, and we hope that if revolution should come, the debts due to the soldiers and creditors of the territory would be paid, but a revolution wipes out all legal obligation to pay them. A revolution may be a very easy way of paying debts, but it would prove a plan which ought and certainly must consign its authors to eternal infamy.

Again, such an association is pernicious in its tendencies—1st. Because it coolly and deliberately invites the citizens of Oregon to become rioters, within the letter and spirit of the laws of the United States, the common law, and the laws of this territory defining that offence. 2d. Because it impliedly licences a total subversion of all the civil, political and religious rights of the citizens of Oregon. These are grave charges, but true nevertheless.

Every time that three or more of the members of such an association attempt to enforce their decisions, by removing any person from lands or tenements, they are guilty of a riot, as known and defined by the United States, common and Oregon laws, and liable to be indicted, tried and punished as rioters; and every member of the association would be equally guilty as aiders and abettors.

If one set of men may set laws at defiance, and rob the only legally constituted tribunals of their jurisdiction over land claims, the same or another set of men may oust courts of their jurisdiction over matters of debt, and appropriate the property of the debtor to the creditor, with the strong hand of force; or prevent the collection of all debts, according as debtors or creditors are the more numerous.

Upon the same principle, if one religious denomination is stronger than the other, it may enforce assent to its tenets by force; and if the Catholic portion of the community is the most numerous, or vice versa, the stronger party may drive the weaker from the country with sword and faggot! This would be a sad picture to look upon, but it would be the natural result of a disregard of laws, and the rights of others. If one portion of the community may set the laws at defiance for one reason, another portion of the community may set at defiance other portions of the law for another reason, and so on adfinitum, until every vestige of law and of human rights shall be swept away, and riot and rout stalk abroad unwhiped of justice.

These are some of the reasons why such associations ought not to be entered into—there are many more which might be advanced, but our limited space compells us to conclude. In justice to ourselves, we could have said no less than we have said. We see less serious objection to the formation of associations for the mutual and peaceable protection of land claims, to take effect in case Congress shall grant less than 640 acres of land—to continue until Congress can be respectfully memorialized for grants of, or pre-emption rights to the balance of the 640 acres. The laws of Oregon cease to exist, from the time when the laws of the United States shall be extended over us. At that time we should have no laws of our own, at all events, to trample upon; and if Congress shall have done injustice to the citizens of Oregon, there would be less serious cause of complaint, if citizens hold on to their claims until their grievances could be set forth by the delegate of their choice. This project has its serious objections; but to our mind, it savors less of riot, treason and revolution, than the proposed association.

Bar Pilot, &c.

At a meeting of the Board of Commissioners on Pilotage, lately held at Portland, Selah C. Reeve, was removed from his post as bar pilot, in consequence of charges preferred against him and others, for secreting goods taken from the wreck of the "Vancouver." Proceedings have been instituted against Mr. Reeve and associates; and all persons interested, whether at home or abroad, may rest assured, that the vigilent and efficient Board of Commissioners on Pilotage, will perform its whole duty. Capt. Nathaniel Crosby, one of the board of commissioners, took out the "Eveline," and consents to act as bar pilot for the time being. Capt. Crosby is an experienced seaman, a gentleman, perfectly acquainted with the channel, and from long experience, deems it safe of entrance. The channel of the mouth of the Columbia is a good and safe channel. The wreck of the Vancouver is the only wreck or accident which has happened on the bar since it has had a pilot, and it is conceded that she, heavy and comparatively unmanageable as she was, would have come in safely, except that she three times missed stays while attempting to bear off from the spit.

☞ The present wheat harvest is extremely promising. Many of the farmers have completed their harvests of early sown wheat. All who have been into the country and returned, unite in saying, that they never saw as good crops of wheat any where. The price of laboring hands in the harvest field is three bushels of wheat per day. New wheat was ground at one of the mills in this city more than a week since.

☞ We learn with regret, that not only Capt. Scott's company of Rangers has failed to go out to escort in the emigration, but also that it is improbable that a company can be raised from this vicinity.

Education.

In soil, climate and position, the citizens of Oregon may justly regard the home of their adoption as peculiarly favored; but all these great natural advantages will fail to yield their rich, ripe fruit, except to an educated and virtuous community. The community of Oregon is young—it will increase its numbers, but its importance and power, like that of every other country, will depend more upon the quality, than upon the quantity of its inhabitants.

In past ages, it was the education of a few which gave tone and character to governments, and that fact alone, should be sufficient evidence of the vast importance of education to a whole community. If a few educated men could elevate the character and condition of a nation, how much more elevated and happy would that community be, whose citizens were all educated and moral?

Nature has performed well her part towards making Oregon a business portion of the globe. Every thing in Oregon shows this so plainly, that "he who runs may read," and every child in Oregon should be so educated as to be qualified to transact a portion of that business.

In the history of nations, the U. States occupies but a brief page, yet that page is a cherished and glorious one, because the government of the U. States is based upon the sacred principles of human rights, as vouchsafed by the God of nature to all His human intelligencies—and because of a becoming appreciation of those high principles—induced, to a very great extent, by the intelligence and virtue of the citizens. The Mexican and South American republics sprung into existence immediately after that of the United States: In stability, and in the security which they afford to the persons and property of their citizens, and the general prosperity and happiness of those citizens, how do those republics compare? The Mexican and South American republics assumed, ostensibly, to pattern after the United States—the one moves forward prosperously, harmoniously, and gloriously; the others pine—the play-things of demagogues, and the contempt of foreign nations! No people upon the face of the earth, enjoy that degree of prosperity and happiness which is enjoyed by the people of the United States. This can only be accounted for but from the happy adaptation of the government to the wants of an intelligent community, and the general education and love of virtue of that community, which strengthens the basis upon which the government is founded.

We throw out these suggestions because of our conviction of the vital importance of education to all persons, and because we would impress upon the citizens of Oregon the importance of education to their children. Education is the main pillar which sustains the temple of liberty. Religion and virtue are desirable requisites of good citizenship; but virtue is vastly dependent upon education for light, and so of religion. Education points to knowledge—knowledge to truth, and truth to God.

Land Claim Meeting.

Pursuant to previous notice, a public meeting was held at the City Hotel, in Oregon City, on Saturday, the 15th inst., to take into consideration the most judicious measures for the protection of land claims in Oregon.

On motion, Col. Chapman was called to the chair, and L. Danforth appointed secretary.

After the object of the meeting was stated by the chair, Gen. McCarver offered the following preamble and resolutions, which, after discussion, were adopted:

Whereas the Congress of the U. States has, at various times, for purposes well understood by that government, held out inducements to its citizens, who would emigrate to, and occupy its uninhabited territories in Oregon, that grants of 640 acres, or more, of land, would be made to the heads of families, or every male over the age of 18 years, by repeatedly introducing into, and at various times, passing through one or the other of its legislative branches, bills making provisions for such grants; and whereas the President of the United States, in his annual message of 1845, has said that to doubt that such liberal grants would be made so soon as the convention between the United States and Great Britain should cease, would be to doubt the justice of Congress; and whereas our fellow-citizens, in a convention held at Cincinnati, in the state of Ohio, in the year 1843, of which our ex-vice president was chairman, issued circulars, through their committee of vigilance, encouraging the belief, by stating that they had no doubt of the passage of laws making such grants; and whereas the inhabitants of this territory have, in view of these facts, at great sacrifices and risks, emigrated to, and in accordance with the provisions of these bills, taken possession of such tracts of land; protected themselves in them under the laws of their provisional government; made extensive improvements—in some instances, covering the entire tract; have, in good faith, bought and sold these tracts to one and another, for large sums; and have, in many instances, by private contributions, with no small sums, extinguished the possessory right of the Indians; have, at their expense, and without the assistance of the [illegible] government, as far carried [illegible] war against [illegible] and the inhabitants of this country [illegible] in short, have, in their opinion, by the [illegible] settlement in this region, and most [illegible] in the speedy and satisfactory [illegible] of the boundary question between the United States and Great Britain, and has caused the emigration of [illegible] citizens to the [illegible] of at least 20,000 of its citizens in this territory, without its having cost the home government one cent: Therefore,

Resolved, That we do form ourselves into an association for the protection of land claims in Oregon.

Resolved, That we do pledge ourselves to assist the settlers of Oregon, who enter into this association, in the protection of their just claims to 640 acres of land against all intrusions.

Resolved, That in view of the extension of the territorial government by the United States, and its superseding the present Organic Law of Oregon, including the Land Law, we will enter into regulations for the protection of land claims, and the adjustment of disputes concerning them, which shall not only be cheap, but speedy.

On motion, a committee of five was elected to draft a constitution and by-laws, consisting of Theophilus Magruder, Geo. L. Curry, P. H. Hatch, Noyes Smith, and M. M. [illegible].

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Oregon Spectator and Free Press.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet at the court house, on Saturday, the 22d inst., at 1 o'clock, P. M.

W. W. CHAPMAN, Chr'm.
L. Danforth, Sec'y.

Remonstrance.

Whereas, at a meeting held at Oregon City, on the 15th inst., the following resolutions were passed: 1st. "That we do form ourselves into an association for the protection of Land Claims in Oregon." 2d. "That we pledge ourselves to assist the settlers of Oregon, who enter into this association, in the protection of their just claims to 640 acres of land, against all intrusions." 3d. "In view of the extension of the territorial government by the United States, and its superseding the present Organic Laws of Oregon, including the Land Law, we will enter into regulations for the protection of Land Claims, and the adjustment of disputes concerning them, which shall not only be cheap, but speedy." And whereas, at another meeting, at the same place, on the 22d inst., the regulations above referred to, were presented and adopted, by which all disputes concerning land claims are to be tried and *finally* settled by a committee of *three* men, whether both parties (disputants) are willing or not, it being the design of the movers of this project to carry their plan into immediate operation, without regard to our laws, or the courts of the country: and whereas the leaders, or some of them, have declared that it is the intention, if it be necessary, to overthrow the government of Oregon territory—it being the avowed design that this committee shall have exclusive and final jurisdiction of all disputes concerning land claims, and to resist and overturn the authority of the constituted courts and the laws of the country, guaranteed to every man by the Organic Law: and whereas they openly profess, that one object of this combined association is, to resist, by rebellion, the government of the United States, if her Congress does not donate to each man 640 acres of land: and whereas this committee is to settle all such disputes, without being governed in their decision by that part of the Organic Law providing for the taking, recording, and improvement of land claims—so that there can be no data to go by, but the arbitrary decision of said committee, and consequently, no one will be able to know whether he will hold his claim or not: and whereas some of these leaders have declared that no man, before said committee, shall be heard by council: and whereas these men intend to put their project into operation in violation of the laws and every man's constitutional rights, so soon as they can induce a sufficient number of persons to sign their articles of association—they, themselves, refusing to sign at their last meeting, until after they can get others to do so, fearing to take the initiatory steps for carrying out their organization: We, therefore, citizens of Linn City, in the county of Tualatin, Oregon territory, do hereby publicly and solemnly enter our protest against any proceeding of this kind, and briefly give our reasons for so doing.

1. We have had no evidence, as yet, that the government of the United States will not donate to each American citizen, in Oregon, 640 acres of land, but much proof to the contrary.

2. Should she not donate so large a quantity, revolution and resistance would, by no means, be the best course to get the donation enlarged.

3. A consideration of dollars and cents will not justify a rebellion against the best government on earth, and that *our country*.

4. Resistance would be absolutely impracticable, if justifiable.

5. The 2d resolution compells the associates to assist all "settlers," who enter into the association, against "all intrusion," consequently, whoever enters into this illegal compact, must resist an intrusion, even if the United States be the party—and must do that too, for *all the settlers*, whether they get claims or not; therefore, in that contingency, said resolution pledges all who sign, to unconditional war against the government of the United States.

6. Because such a compact, formed in and by the citizens of Oregon, strikes at the very heart of the provisional government, and therefore is treason against the state.

7. Because every man has a right to [illegible] by such persons [illegible] and [illegible] violation and subversion of [illegible] vested rights.

8. The Organic Law is a compact under which every citizen [illegible] live, so much measure and so much land, without the consent of [illegible] can, whatever is calculated [illegible] or infringes upon their [illegible] is a violation of the Organic Law we have.

10. Such associations, in defiance of the constitution and laws, have a bad tendency upon the morals and stability of the community, inasmuch as they breed a revolutionary spirit, and beget a disregard of the laws—without obedience to which, no government can exist and prosper.

11. There is a secrecy in the project—the resolutions do not plainly enough declare what their advocates verbally confess.

12. The project may be "most, and it may be something we should not like quite so well;" therefore, we will not enter into it, but will insist, peaceably, if we can; forcibly, if we must—upon the inviolate safety and protection of the constitution and laws.

A. H. Prior,	W. Mulkey,
B. Grounds,	Zora Swan,
James Athey,	S. E. Thurston,
Geo. Shoembrook,	Charles Sweet,
T. G. Robinson,	P. B. Anthoney,
John Doves,	Wm. M. Belong,
John S. George,	J. P. Smith,
Felix Hathaway,	James M. Moore,
Elijah Bird,	Robert Moore.

Belgium.

Great excitement was occasioned in Brussels on the receipt of the intelligence of the proclamation of the Republic in Paris.

The Brussels Herald says—"The excitement, far from being on the decrease, is becoming still more intense. Every one has his say on the important events in Paris, and comments of the most diversified kind are freely indulged in. Last night there was a quiet meeting of many leading Liberals, and questions relating to monarchies and republics, to the independence of Belgium, or to its annexation to some other continental power, formed the topics of consideration. One of the chief speakers was M. Bartaels, a well known Liberal, or rather Radical. He expressed himself, however, in very moderate terms, asserting that the independence and neutrality of Belgium should be maintained at all risks, and admitting that any attempt at a revolution in Belgium would be an unjustifiable one. He even declared that the institutions of this country were in advance of the people. A Cabinet Council was sitting during the entire night, and nearly all the employees in the office of the Minister of War were occupied till an early hour this morning. Some superior officers have been sent to France to watch the movements of the victorious insurgents. This day the bills in London (three days after sight,) were from 36f. 60c. to 36f. 80c. considerably below par. The English bankers in this city (Reynolds & Co.,) attribute this falling off to the great run on the banks. A number of military are stationed before the Bank of Belgium, in order to facilitate the entrance of the numerous persons wishing to withdraw their money.

The Love of Freedom.—None can love freedom heartily but good men; the rest love not freedom, but license, which never hath more scope, or indulgence than under tyrants. Hence it is, that tyrants are not oft offended by, nor stand much in doubt of bad men, as being all naturally servile; but in whom virtue and true worth most is eminent, them they fear in earnest, as by right their masters; against them lies all their hatred and suspicion.—*Milton.*

Pretty Fair.—"Pa, what is fication?"

"There is no such word as fication, my son," says the father—"what do you ask that for?"

"Why, pa, Mr. Badger says that the American have been building forty-fications in Mexico."

"Charles," says the father, "you had better run home, you are too young to understand war matters."

An advocate lately gained a suit for a fair young woman. When she was told of her success, she exclaimed, "I have nothing to repay but my heart." "I shall not take my fees from you," answered the advocate, "you may hand them over to the clerk."

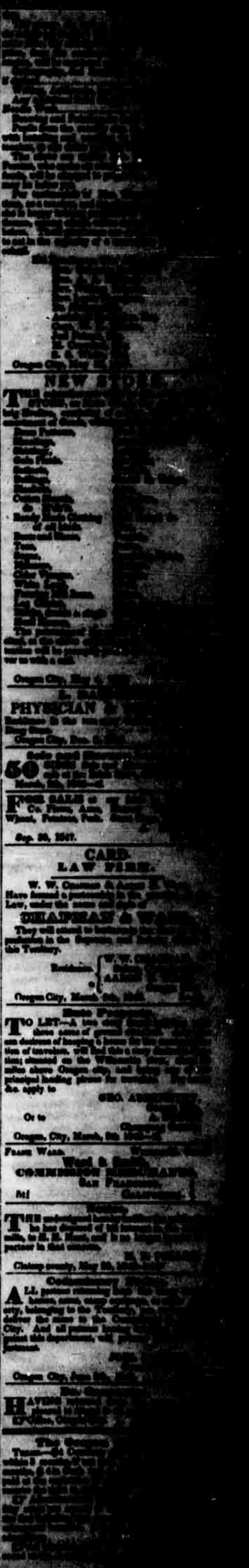
☞ A spruce looking lieutenant under the U. S. ten regiment bill, asking a friend what he would be taken for without his epaulette, was answered that he would be *taken for debt.*

Oregon Territory, } ss.
Tualatin County. }

March Term, Tualatin County Circuit Court, A. D. 1848.

BILL IN CHANCERY.

Robert Moore, Complainant,
vs.
Geo. Abernethy & William Sutton, Defen'ts.

THIS is therefore to notify said William Sutton, that the said Robert Moore has filed his Bill of Complaint on the Chancery side of said Tualatin Circuit Court, stating that the said William Sutton has possession or control, of a deed for a claim, for Lot number one in Block number six, in the Robbins Nest, now called Linn City, in Tualatin County, Oregon Territory; and that the consideration of said deed has wholly failed. Said Bill praying for a decree, demanding said deed void and of no effect, and to be given up to be cancelled and a prayer for general relief. You will therefore take notice that if you do not appear on the 1st day of the next term of the Tualatin Circuit Court, to be held at the Methodist Meeting-house, in Tualatin plains, on the fourth Monday in September, 1848, and plead, answer, or demur, to said Bill, a judgment will be taken pro confesso, and a decree entered accordingly.

TVAULT & THURSTON,
BURNETT & LOVEJOY,
Solicitors for Complainant.