

As the great system before us had a birth and a progress—a growth toward its present glory—can we stretch onward our gaze toward the time when its strength shall wane—toward the closing scenes of those stupendous arrangements?

Even so, this nebular hypothesis leads us to a glimpse of this change. It carries us onward to the time when our system shall cease to exist as it is, and pass into some other form of being. The circumstances attending this change appear to be the following. Recollect the two influences that keep the planets in their places. Suppose anything should operate upon Jupiter to retard its progress and diminish its centrifugal force. It would necessarily be drawn into the sun. Now the tendency of Jupiter or any other planet to fly away from the sun might be constantly retarded by some such action as this.

Suppose that these planetary spaces are not void, but filled up with ether, the matter out of which these bodies sprang. However light, the fact that all the planets are required to move through that ether must subject them to constant retards. If, then, this ether exists throughout these planetary spaces, every planet moving through it must be subjected to its resisting power, and as the orb cannot put forth any vital power to overcome it, it must continue for ages and ages to retard its motion. Now the retardation of the motion diminishes the planet's tendency to fly away from the sun, and consequently, the attraction of the sun will cause it constantly to approach nearer and nearer to that orb, till at last it will be absorbed by it. Now, it might be supposed, that if this ether exists, we should with our fine instruments discern its effects precisely in this connection, and that we should discern how much it retards the planets—how much in every revolution the planet is drawing nearer and nearer to the sun. But alas! the planets are by far too heavy to be subject to a perceptible retardation by so subtle an agent. What the planets have not enabled us to accomplish, however, has been done by means of a comet.

It was accomplished by the comet of Encke, which revolves round our sun in three years, passing through the orbits of some of our planets. Now the comet and the planet stand in relation to each other in this wise: Take a piece of metal and a feather; drop them; the metal falls at once to the ground—it meets with no perceptible retardation; but the feather moves about in the air, seeming as though it would never reach the ground. Thus the feather shows us what the metal would not—that if one suffers retardation so must the other, although too small to be appreciated. Encke's comet is the feather, and the planets the metal. Thus the comet has demonstrated this fact so that astronomers acknowledge it; viz., that there is a planetary ether filling the spaces between the orbits of our system. Every time this comet returns it is retarded about two days, so that, in time, it will entirely disappear. Now the influence exerted upon this comet must befall the planets, and though ages so vast must roll on before one may call them infinite, these solid orbs must be retarded, drawn nearer and nearer to the centre of the system and thus our vast planetary scheme pass into another mode of being.

Thus the nebular hypothesis shows us, not only the origin of our system, but carries us onward to the time when it shall undergo some great organic change. This will not take place, however, as was supposed in the earlier stages of astronomy, by violence. It was once supposed that the perturbations of the planets would grow so large as to interfere with the order of the system. But this is not so. The perturbations exactly balance each other, and from this source nothing like confusion or ruin can ensue. Neither will there be confusion from that which I have just unfolded. Not in confusion shall this magnificent scheme finally pass away, not with the jar and confused voice of ruin, but even in its own quiet and majestic order, like the flower, which having adorned a speck of earth less drop its leaves when its work is done, and falls back obediently upon its mother's bosom! (Applause.)

It may still be in the recollection of some of my hearers, that I presented in our second lecture an exhibition of the nature of the activities prevailing through all these stellar hosts—how, wherever such orbs are, there is change—immense motions accomplishing majestic purposes—all things rushing on toward some new condition—proclaiming that evolution, ceaseless and irresistible—advancing from the imperfect to the perfect is the law of the universe. That, indeed, was a noble spectacle—myriads of suns in gorgeous arrangement marching onward, each on its great way, pointing toward regions far beyond the sight; but with a significance how much more profound is this same lofty truth when once more declared. The development of which I there spoke, was only an alteration in internal distribution of groups of stars, producing a change and gradual perfecting or simplifying of external form; but now we discern the orb themselves rising, enduring, and then melting away; even as these most stupendous manifestations of a material organization in their inmost structure, the doom of instability, bowing before that profound law which persists or eminently endures as the cause and substratum of all change! How overwhelming must be these purposes whose greatness even these heavens are not adequate to represent—whose amplitude, even these unfathomable depths cannot contain—of whose purity and expanse that whole universe of stars is fitted to be an emblem only so transient!

There, a mere speck in the void, yet of itself so complex, so perfect, so grand, floats that solar system of which our varied and beautiful world is but a minor

part—it is but as a blossom fitted for a moment only to unfold itself and live, as the seasons of the august universe pass. What, then, is this scheme as a whole?—where its beginning?—where its end?—and what the solemn forms of which these existing splendors are but the early and imperfect rudiments? Questions, indeed, most vain! never, it may be, to be resolved by any whose tenement is in the flesh! And yet not vain is this. They seem to tell of that light which shall pour through the opening of yonder portals—shadows cast toward earth by alpine heights of thought—inaccessible now, but into whose presence anon, as a reverent child, the soul shall come, at that dread but not fearful moment, when, amid the crash of worlds, the meaning of the phantasma shall all be revealed—the awful veil being rent in twain. (Great applause.)



THE SPECTATOR.

LEWIS E. WATTS, EDITOR—A. BENTLEY, PRINTER.

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Legislative.—Temperance.

As the time for the convening of the Legislature is near at hand, it is a fitting moment to urge the importance of legislative remedy against the consequences which seriously threaten the peace and security of this community from the sale of intoxicating liquors.

Ten days ago we supposed that those of our fellow-citizens who were returning from the mines, and those who would remain at home, would be afforded sufficient protection to the community by a dry day brings evidence that many more are intending to leave the mines in the spring, than we had supposed, and that the most of those who have just returned from the mines will seek them again with the opening of spring.

Men who have come home sick, expressing their determination not to further hazard health and life for all the meagreable wealth of California, are now purposing to try their fortunes in the mines again; this state of things added to the facts, that this community is interspersed by, and surrounded with Indians, and that it is common to see these Indians, revelling with drunkenness, and passing from place to place and from house to house—speak in language which should secure the ear and attention of our legislators.

The evils incident to the use of intoxicating drinks, by the whites, demand legislative action; but the use of ardent spirits by the Indian, fires, maddens, and brutalizes his wild disposition, and under present circumstances, it would seem, that to omit efficient legislation to prevent them, would be little short of becoming accessory to the suffering, crime, and bloodshed which may befall the women and children of this community, before the earth shall have again put on her autumnal garb.

We are among the number who believe and feel that the importation into, and manufacture and sale of intoxicating drinks in Oregon, should be prohibited by law, and that such a law would contribute more to the rapid, permanent and healthful settlement of the country than any other conceivable statute. In confirmation of this opinion, we state a few facts, viz: First, the soil of California is wonderfully rich in gold, and years will roll away before the gold of that soil will be exhausted; second, although previous to the discovery of gold, her small American population was as good as any other portion of the world, and although she may receive other excellent permanent settlers, yet it would be folly to attempt to disguise the fact, that for years a large portion of her population will be a floating one, and for the generally composed of reckless, vicious and abandoned men;—and sure as that beasts and birds of prey exist, and that they are most numerous, when their favorite prey most abound;—just so sure it is that California will become the rallying-point, and stamping-ground of men who prefer any other way of getting gold to that of honest and industrious labor;—men whom the better portion of the community can no more make temperate, honest and virtuous, than they can stay the proud march of the Pacific tide, which, in noble bays; third, nature has been so bountiful of her richest bounties to California, that she has made it the most fertile and productive of any soil in the world, and in everything calculated to make the country desirable and great for agricultural, herding and mechanical industry;—the countenances of the citizens of Oregon proclaim trumpet-tongued her

healthfulness, and the out-going ships laden with provisions attest her fruitfulness—let the people of Oregon do for her a cycle of what nature has done, let them make themselves and their children intelligent and virtuous by making Oregon the seat of temperance and schools, and the valleys and plains of Oregon are sure to become densely settled with a wealthy, intelligent and moral community, as that there are men who desire the education of their children, and the peaceable enjoyment of health and property. But, as important as the ultimate increased settlement and prosperity of the country are, they sink into utter insignificance compared with the insecurity of the country during the approaching summer.

No danger is seriously apprehended from the Indians east of the Cascades, and there need be no particular alarm felt that the Indians here would be guilty of improper conduct, if liquor can be kept from them; but there are reasons for fearing serious trouble from the Indians here and elsewhere, unless the pollution and taint bearing streaks of ruin are freed up. It is true that we have a law, which imposes a heavy penalty upon the sale or gift of intoxicating drinks to any Indian, but the law was daily violated with impunity when we had courts to enforce it, and being now without courts, the law is a dead letter upon the statute book.

The legislators of Oregon are the legislative guardians of the people, and accountable to their own consciences, to that people, and to the great Guardian of the human family for the welfare of all their children and nations. Does not the responsibility solemnly call upon the legislators to see that the law is enforced? The pledge being circulated, 27 names were added.

On motion of Dr. M. Laughlin, a committee of five be appointed to open a correspondence with all societies of the territory.

On motion of Capt. Kilborn, the executive committee be also the corresponding committee.

On motion of Mr. Theo. Magruder, a committee of five were appointed to ascertain the vote of Oregon City for and against the sale of ardent spirits in this place.

Messrs. Theo. Magruder, Col. Taylor, Neneval Ford, J. E. Hurlford, and S. N. Holderness were appointed that committee.

On motion committee report at the next meeting.

On motion the society adjourned, to meet on Wednesday evening, Jan. 31.

W. W. BIRD, Pres.
C. W. SHANE, Sec.

Provisional Government for California.

We see in the following article, copied from the "Star and Californian" of Nov. 25th, that the organization of a Provisional Government for California is to be soon entered into, unless the St. Mary's sleep-of-war shortly arrives bringing information of the establishment of a Territorial Government for that country by Congress. There is an old saying that—"They who learn from their own experience are wise; they who learn from the experience of others are happy; and they who learn neither from their own nor the experience of others are fools." The Provisional Government of Oregon is inadequate to the growing interests of the country; from which fact California may learn, that in the organization of her contemplated Provisional Government, it is important to provide (as far as government can do it) for the protection of every right, and the punishment of every wrong.

We hope that the citizens of California will be compelled to wait as long for a Territorial Government as have the citizens of Oregon; but the advice that makes it worth doing at all is worth doing well;—consequently applicable to government organization, or changes.

The late view between Col. Jones and Gov. Mason.—The conference with Gen. Jones for which purpose Gov. Mason visited this place en route to the capital, has terminated, and we are pleased to find the people of California of its result, as favorable to the organization of a civil government. It was generally believed while it had been recently hoped, that a form of government would arrive from Washington before laws could be enacted and put into operation by ourselves for the government of California, or any provisional arrangement entered into. The growing demand for a judicial organization, and the non-arrival of the conveyance, by which government dispatches and instructions, relative to territorial matters, might have been expected, though long since due, have impressed our authorities, we are most thankful in stating, with a necessity for immediate action, and unless the arrival of the St. Mary's sleep-of-war, with the long expected territorial government, shortly occurs, both Com. Jones and Gov. Mason unite in recommending the appointment of delegates by the people, to frame laws, and make other necessary arrangements for a Provisional Government for

California. To forward the movement, and produce a revenue for the support of the government formed, preventing a recourse to taxation, Col. Mason, we are officially advised, will give over to its constituted authorities the entire collection of customs at the several ports of California.

We have hardly time to dwell upon the favorable effect we trust this conference will have upon the minds of the people, as a signal, by them respectfully awaited, for the promotion of good law in California at their own hands. Our readers may rest assured of the correctness of what we have stated, as but a few moments before going to press it has been officially communicated. We will only enjoin upon our countrymen wise and deliberate proceeding, in whatever follows the announcement our civil officers in California have made. As they are disposed to sanction any effort of the people here to provide law for the territory, we can see no reason why a civil organization cannot be at once extended over us. We shall write more at length upon this subject in a few days.

News.—News.—News.

Territorial Government for Oregon.—A Supreme Judge arrived. A Governor, other officers and an escort on the way. Uncle Sam a gentleman.

From passengers arrived from the "Undine" we learn that a Territorial Government has been organized for Oregon, that a Mr. Pratt, of Illinois, has been appointed Supreme Judge for the territory, who came on board the Undine, and will be in this city in a few days; that Gen. Lane of Indiana has been appointed Governor, and Messenger Meek Marshal, who with other officers and an escort are on their way here by land, and may now be watering at Fort Hall. We have been unable to learn the names of the other officers, also whether or not any land law has passed for Oregon. Trusting that Uncle Sam has done or will do justly by the citizens of Oregon, we do not feel, and call him a gentleman of the first water. With the passage of a just land law, nothing prevents Oregon from speedily becoming the strong right arm of America upon the Pacific. In the name of the good people of Oregon, their Stateator joyfully greets the arrival of Judge Pratt into Oregon.

Gen. Lane is a young man, self made, and has won many and imperishable honors in the Mexican war. No Territorial Government has been organized for California.

Still Further News.

We learn from the "Star and Californian" of Dec. 16th, that intelligence has been received in California, that United States troops are on their way to that country. Speedy preparations are being made for the organization there of a Provisional Government. We notice the death of our fellow-citizen Marvin R. Alderman, at the hands of Charles E. Pickett, by shooting. Mr. Judd, the Hawaiian Minister of Finance, has been charged with misdemeanor in office—his trial had not yet come off.

Five hundred houses were consumed by fire in the city of Albany in Aug. last. The following which we extract from the "Star and Californian," of Dec. 16th confirms the intelligence of our organization, gives the name of Mr. Pritchett as our Territorial Secretary, and contains some foreign news. Read.

Later from the States and Europe.

Dates from the United States to Sept. 11th are in our possession. We have detained the paper until this late hour that we may present a brief summary of the news. Through the politeness of T. O. Larkin Esq., Monterey, we have received a file of Mexico City papers of Sept. and the N. O. Phoenix of Sept. 11th.

The bill providing for Oregon a Territorial Government had been passed, and Gen. Lane appointed Governor. Major Joseph L. Meek had received the appointment of U. S. Marshal for that Territory, and Mr. Pritchett that of Secretary. Maj. Meek was in St. Louis on the 29th of Aug., the bearer of Gen. Lane's commission, and it is probable has already arrived in Oregon. The governor was preparing to leave immediately.

In France another political storm is brewing; in Paris fears of another outbreak are entertained. Louis Blanc and Proudhon and other associate leaders were in arrest.—In Ireland all was quiet. In Russia a revolution had broken out. Emperor fled to Constatd.—provisional Government established at St. Petersburg.

The pocket ship Ocean Monarch from Liverpool, bound for Boston, was burned in the Bristol Channel on the 28th Aug., and 150 lives lost. Ship Serampore was cleared in Sept. for the Sandwich Islands has a cargo valued at \$80,000 of Yankee notions, all sorts and kinds.

Mint.

The opinion prevails very generally in the community, that a mint should be established in Oregon for the coming of such gold dust as has been and may be brought here. We see much advantage that would accrue from the establishment of a mint in Oregon. It is estimated by careful business men, who have better means of judging than the most of our

fellow-citizens, that there is now in Oregon in the neighborhood of four hundred thousand dollars worth of gold dust—and but a few of our fellow-citizens have returned from the mines. It may be safely calculated, that by the first of August next, from a million and a half to two million dollars worth of gold will have arrived in the country from California. The dust sells for from eleven to twelve dollars cash per ounce, which is less than two thirds its real value. One third of \$1,500,000 is \$500,000—an amount worth saving.

Our fellow-townman Noyes Smith, Esq., supercargo of the "Amia," will please accept our thanks for the bringing and delivery of our files of the "Star and Californian." Mr. Joseph F. Smith will also accept our thanks for the "Star and Californian" of Nov. 26.

Father Acosta will also please accept our thanks for the loan of the "Star and Californian" of Dec. 16.

The "Huntsman's Song" will appear in our next.

The "Undine" entered Shoal Water Bay through mistake for the mouth of the Columbia. The vessel struck several times in entering the bay, and narrowly escaped injury. She is now safely at anchor in Shoal Water Bay, but must remain for a high tide.

We learn from the supercargo of the "Amia," that during the fourteen days he remained at San Francisco, the weather was mild and pleasant. It was not expected that digging would continue during the winter. We take this occasion for stating that persons making the acquaintance of the supercargo of the "Amia," will find him an accomplished business man and a gentleman.

We regret that our correspondent "R." has taken the remarks of our correspondent "Tyro" so much to heart. We had understood the sentiments of "Tyro" as levelled solely at the matter advanced by "R." and not at his person. Private views after being publicly advanced become public property, and subject to criticism, eulogy, or denunciation, as the judgment or caprice of such as choose to enter the arena of controversy dictate.

The "Eveline" and "Sabine" had safely arrived at San Francisco before the sailing of the "Undine."

Gold dust is said to be selling at Valparaiso for \$18 per ounce.

Some of the passengers lately arrived are citizens of California, come here to settle. Some have been here before; some are here now for the first time.

The "Undine" brought sixty-two passengers, among whom was Judge Pratt of Illinois, who comes, it is said, as Supreme Judge of Oregon Territory, and our fellow-citizens Gen. Lovejoy, F. W. Pettygrove, and Andrew Hood, Esquires, and several others. Less complaint is made of the sickness of California than by those who returned earlier. Robberies and murders seem to be on the increase.

The annual express of the H. B. Co. is expected from Ft. Hall about the 10th of February. Governor Lane and suit may arrive then also.

A TALL FAMILY.—The Home News says there is at Nottingham, a Yorkshire Giant, 8 feet high, and who weighs 482 pounds. His father, a farmer, was 6 feet 6 inches high.—His mother 6 feet, and all the children of the family taller than the mother. One of the young ladies is 7 feet 3 inches.