

alms, and unburied corpses, the world has heard through. Its feelings have been rendered callous by the repetition and variation of the one unvarying tale—until it is hardly necessary longer to skip the news from Ireland in order to escape the sensation of horror that news is calculated to excite. To hear of the starvation of another lot of Irish cottagers is deemed about as inevitable as to learn that so many deaths occurred last week in some distant city, and makes about the same impression.

But there is one important question we do not see considered even by the journals most voluble of details of Irish suffering and starvation. It concerns the ultimate cause of these gigantic horrors. The fact that so many men have starved to death, or died of eating loathsome food, is simply revolting—why should we know it at all unless to study its radical causes and thence determine how such tragedies may henceforth be avoided? But for this, let us remain in ignorance of Ireland's agonies, unmatched in modern times. If they are to teach us nothing, why should they torture us?

There are a great many hypotheses propounded to account for Ireland's woes. One attributes them to the unbalanced ascendancy of her people's chosen priest-hood—another lays stress on the exactions of the established church. One exclaims against foreign rule; another against Celtic work and improvidence. It strikes us that it is a sufficient reply to all these—not denying that any one or more of them may exert an unpropitious influence—that all of them exist elsewhere without producing such calamities. Poland is a subjugated country, its Catholic people ruled with a rod of iron by an anti-Catholic despot, who is specially desirous of molding all his subjects into conformity with that church of which he is terrestrial head. French Brittany and other portions of Continental Europe are mainly peopled by Celtic races, but their people seldom starve. We suspect the Celts of the Continent are as little addicted to starvation as the Saxons or Danes. The moving cause of Ireland's woes is other than any of these.

Let us here glance at a few facts—first in relation to the extent of the prevailing desolation. The county surveyor of Mayo was recently examined before the House of Lords, and testified as follows: "In Mayo county alone fifty thousand acres of ground, heretofore in cultivation, with an enormous extent of mountainous country, have been abandoned. In 1845, the population was 400,000 and upward. It has since decreased to 300,000. Of the deficit, 100,000, about 50,000 died through the effects of the famine, 50,000 emigrated to the colonies, and the remaining 50,000 fled to the neighboring counties of England and Scotland. Of the 500,000 still in Mayo, there are only 20,000 families capable of supporting themselves."

Another witness testified that Mayo had formerly possessed cattle to the value of \$1,000,000. Now he had just ridden across the country without seeing even a single cow.

One more circumstance will serve to point a moral to the above. An English proprietor of an Irish estate last year got rid of all his Irish tenants, resolved to have his lands cultivated after the most improved English fashion. He took over a thoroughly capable English farmer to examine and make an offer for the land.

The farmer went over it thoroughly, studied and figured, and made his offer. He must have a decent farm-house built for him, the land one year rent-free to get it in order, and then he would take the whole on a long lease at 9s. (\$2.) per acre. "But," remarked the astonished owner, "my Irish tenants that I have turned off paid me £1 15s. (\$8) per acre." "I can't help that," said the business-like farmer, "I have counted carefully, and this land is worth but 9s. per acre. If you can find men to work it for nothing and give the product for the privilege of staying on it, that is your luck; but I can't work land on such terms."

One more fact. We lately conversed with one of the better class of fugitives just from Ireland—a man whose integrity and worth none who saw him could doubt. He had for twenty years worked thirty acres of right good land—about as good as Ireland can afford. He had worked hard, lived frugally, and met with no special misfortunes. He began with a snug little property, and hung on till he had barely enough left, by selling everything, to take his family to Wisconsin, whither he has gone. What rent do you suppose he paid for those thirty acres? Nine pence, or over \$15 per acre, every year. Can you pretend not to see what ate him up?

Talk not, then, of Irish indolence, nor unthriftness, nor priestly influence, nor even of the potato-rot. The blight of the potato is a bad thing, but it only brings the disease to a speedier crisis. The blight of a land-stealing aristocracy was there before it. When Ireland's soil was declared the property of certain favorites of her English conqueror—when British swords and British law decreed that Ireland's poor should till her soil not mainly for themselves but for absentee landlords, the doom of Ireland was sealed. Its execution may be modified, suspended, accelerated, by good or bad harvests, the failure of a root or the crushing of a rebellion, but the essential curse is in the land-laws which compel her people to be ignorant, wretched and famishing while producing wholesome food enough to feed bountifully a far larger population. Who so blind as not to see that land monopoly is the paramount curse of Ireland?

Dean Swift says he never knew a man rise to eminence who lay in bed of a morning.



THE SPECTATOR.

OREGON CITY:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1849.

Our Salutory.

It is with no ordinary feelings of anxiety that we undertake the arduous and responsible duties of the editorial chair. We are cheered, however, with the assurance that our readers will exercise a charitable forbearance, in view of our inexperience—promising, as we do, that we will exercise due diligence in our new vocation. No effort will be spared to cultivate, successfully, the wide field of usefulness spread out before us. And though we must labor under some embarrassment, in the commencement of the enterprise, in consequence of the limited supply of exchanges, from which to enrich our columns with articles on literary and scientific subjects, and especially with foreign and domestic news; yet in a country so richly furnished by nature, as Oregon, with the materials of a pure and elevated literature, we would be exceedingly unfortunate in our effort, if we did not infuse into our paper sufficient life to engage the attention of our readers.

We are frank in the conviction, that no country in the world presents greater encouragements than this to the cultivation of a native literature, and the vigorous display of native mind. And if Oregon does not rank high in the literary world in a few years, it will not surely be because there are not here materials in large profusion, out of which to create a literature of our own. Amid the natural scenery of this country, the lovers of the sublime and beautiful will find a never failing feast. All—everything is here that may be found among the ingredients of nature's loveliest scenes. Lofty mountains, rocky wilds, lovely valleys, vast plains, foaming cascades, majestic rivers, noble forests, a pure bright sky, and delightful seasons—all thrown together in one grand panorama, sufficient to inspire the poet's song and constrain the descriptive writer—the transcriber of nature—to indulge in his favorite pursuit.

The mysterious interest connected with the past history of the Indian tribes, their once numerous and warlike race, their more recent connexion with the trapper and trader, and their now rapidly thinning ranks, present to the antiquarian and lover of romance a fine field for the gratification of that roving curiosity so natural to the human heart. Many a pleasing story might be told of the dark sons and daughters of the valley of the Columbia. "Flint's Shoshonee Valley" has broken the way, and will doubtless suggest to many a native genius thrilling stories of the past.

But while the votaries of light literature are encouraged to indulge their favorite fancies, the more laborious and sober-thinking man of science has also here a noble field, in which to prosecute his many and ennobling researches. No where does nature display her various stores of scientific lore with greater profusion. No where is the scientific scholar invited into a more profitable region for research, and a region, too, which is yet almost wholly new and unknown to the scientific world. And from the very bosom of this region may be drawn inexhaustible wealth, ensuring the means of universal education and leisure for general study. So that here we might reasonably anticipate the growth of an intelligent and reading community.

While nature thus extends the hand of friendly encouragement to the literary and scientific, the interests of the social world arrest the attention of the ethical scholar, as well as the philanthropist and patriot. We are now laying the foundation of a mighty republic. Here will be concentrated a vast amount of mighty vigorous mind. Here too will be gathered the resources of untold wealth. Hence here will be required the exercise of a wise, firm and pure government, under the purest and best of social and moral influences, to guide that mind and control that wealth, so that here may be exhibited to the world the glorious spectacle of a wealthy, virtuous and intelligent people.

In the discharge of the responsible duties we have assumed, we shall always labor to lead our territory upward in this brilliant career. We would stand on that proud elevation of national glory, and say to the beloved land of our adoption "come up hither." To call forth and guide the strong mind of the vigorous and enterprising people who are to possess these lovely

valleys; to promote the cause of universal education; to plead for temperance and for a pure and elevated morality; and to inform the public of the passing events of the day, these, with the little incidents and vicissitudes which diversify the course of life, will afford us an ample opportunity for the exercise of every power.

And while the press may shed its light over a field of such surpassing natural, moral and social beauty, why should it tarnish its glorious lustre by pandering to party strife and sensual degradation. Infinitely better would it be to cultivate a unity of feeling, a community of interest, an universal brotherhood, than to sow the seeds of discord and political contention.

Our editorial motto shall be Omission, and whatever will contribute to enlighten, chasten, elevate and bless her excellent and enterprising population. In the maintenance of this position we feel sure of the cordial support of the good and right-hearted; and as for others, while we may mourn over their moral delinquency, we shall not be deterred, in the least, by their frowns from the bold and fearless advocacy of the great moral and social interests on which the happiness of the country depend.

With these professions of fidelity to the common cause, we commend ourselves, our cause and our paper to the fraternal regard and magnanimous support of the whole community.

WILSON BLAIN.

To Correspondents.

We invite the attention of all who wish to communicate with the public, through the medium of the press, to our columns, as a favorable channel through which to reach many minds. And until our exchanges can be enlarged we will be greatly obliged by whatever kind and we may receive in filling our sheet with interesting matter. And at all times well written articles, on all subjects not calculated to lead to sectarian or political contention, or personal abuse, will be cordially received.

There are many writers of no ordinary merit in this territory, who might wield their pens with good effect, in giving tone to public morals and intelligence. We hope they will not suffer their energies to lie dormant, while the general welfare of the country demands their active exertions. We feel disposed to allow our correspondents ample latitude, provided they do not wander into the forbidden grounds already indicated. The opinion seems to be common, though it is erroneous, that the privileges of the Spectator are compressed into a nut shell. We feel that we enjoy all the sea room necessary in conducting an independent, neutral, literary journal, and we will cheerfully allow the courteous correspondent a wide berth.

We hope our fair readers will justify us in cherishing the pleasing assurance, that we shall frequently hear from some amiable Fancy Forerunners, who shall enliven our columns with the effusions of their pens. Will not many a lovely and beautiful spot of Oregon's picturesque scenery be thus embalmed by the fair hands of her no less lovely daughters.

Especially do we hope, that those who stand in special relations of friendship and favor with the muses, will remember that the Spectator would esteem it an honor and a pleasure, to introduce them to the acquaintance of the reading world.

Mail Routes.—The Delivery of the Spectator to Subscribers.

Many persons hesitate in the gratification of their own wishes in regard to taking the Spectator, on account of the uncertainty of receiving it regularly. If subscribers will inform us where they wish their papers left, we will spare no pains to have them promptly and properly delivered. We are, however, authorized, by the official agent of the post office department, to state that mail routes are already established and mails will be delivered regularly from this city to Salem and Clatsop; and also that routes will soon be established to all the principal towns and settlements throughout the Territory. Hence we are confident, that by the time we have our paper thoroughly under way, we will experience little difficulty in forwarding the paper to all our subscribers regularly.

California.

We observe that California is rapidly filling up with those who come in quest of gold. All is life and activity. Trade is flourishing; and cities are growing up as if by magic. We notice that preparations are being made to form a constitution and ask for admittance as a State. As the prosperity of Oregon and California are closely connected we say success to their efforts.

We send this number of our paper to a number of our friends who are requested to use their influence to promote its circulation.

Important Decision.

Captain Morris, of the British bark Harpooner, was brought before his honor Judge Bryant, United States district judge for the first district in this Territory, by J. Q. Thornton, Sub-Indian Agent, on a charge of having introduced intoxicating liquors, and of selling and giving such liquors to Indians in this Territory.

The question raised on the trial was, whether this is an Indian country within the meaning of the laws of the United States, into which spirituous and intoxicating liquors cannot be introduced and sold to Indians? This question was discussed with learning, zeal and ability by J. Q. Thornton, esq., in behalf of the prosecution, and by R. Pritchett, esq., Secretary of the Territory, for the defence.

His honor the Judge decided that this is an Indian country within the meaning of the law, at least so far as to make it criminal for any person in this Territory to give or sell such liquors to Indians. And to introduce such liquors amongst the Indians for traffic would be a violation of the law. His honor also held, that the receipt of such liquors by Indians from the vessel by which they were introduced, and the sale or gift of them to Indians, and to persons residing amongst them, by the captain of such vessel was sufficient evidence, prima facie, of their unlawful introduction. The Judge held the defendant to bail, in the sum of five hundred dollars, for his appearance at the next term of the district court.

Judge Bryant has received merited applause for the enlightened, firm and dignified manner in which he gave his decision in this case. It is, however, to be regretted that this decision covers only a part of the ground embraced in the law. The question is still an open one, whether American citizens may introduce ardent spirits into the Indian Territory for purposes of use and traffic among themselves. This is undoubtedly a debatable question, and, by reason of the many important interests which it involves, it is exceedingly desirable that the whole question should be thoroughly examined and judicially decided. Many of the best and most intelligent citizens of this community are of opinion that, if the law were properly enforced, all that can be introduced would be excluded from this Territory, yet the traffic goes on in its baleful career unchecked.

It may not perhaps be amiss to add that, in all the cases that have arisen in our courts under this law, an important issue in the statutes of the United States has been unfortunately overlooked. By a law of Congress the Indians are declared to be competent witnesses against offenders against this law. If, therefore, an Indian is found to be intoxicated, he and his associates will be sufficient evidence against the person from whom they received the liquor, and the guilty can be detected and punished. This is a question in which the people of Oregon are more deeply interested than any other, and hence we are sincerely anxious that every thing relating to it should be developed.

Death of Ex-President Polk.

On Friday, 21st ult., a message from Gov. Lane was received by the two houses of the Legislative Assembly, conveying the melancholy tidings of the death of James K. Polk, late President of the United States. The Legislative Assembly, by resolution, placed the council chamber and the hall of the house in mourning, directed the members to wear crape on the left arm during the remainder of the session, and adjourned till Monday.

Arrangements were also made to have a funeral service on Saturday afternoon in honor of the late ex-president, and also of Gens. Gaines and Worth, and Col. Jack Hays. The national flag was displayed at half mast and an appropriate salute was fired. The following is the order of the procession:

1. Marshall of the day.
2. Governor and Secretary.
3. Chaplains and Ministers of the Gospel.
4. Judges of the Courts and officers of the United States.
5. President of the Council and Speaker of the House of Representatives.
6. Members of the Council.
7. Members of the House.
8. Clerks and Officers of the Council and House of Representatives.
9. Ladies.
10. Citizens.

His Excellency Gov. Lane delivered an address highly eulogistic of all the distinguished persons in honor to the memory of whom the service was observed. The day passed off pleasantly and without any casualty.

We have just learned that the army train of wagons, and the emigrants are in the Cascades, and find great difficulty in getting along on account of the fire

Mouth of the Columbia—Oregon Commerce.

It is with no ordinary feelings of gratification that we refer not only our Oregon readers, but also the commercial world, to the marine list found in another column. This list affords flattering indications of a growing commerce in this Territory. Until a very recent date, but few vessels would venture to approach this port. Such was the terror inspired by the very name of the mouth of the Columbia, that it was only the more bold and venturesome that would favor us with their visits. Great as was the national interest at stake, the home government refused or neglected to do any thing towards the improvement of the entrance into the Columbia. The wheat growers of Oregon experienced so many drawbacks on their business, that some have suffered it to go to waste in the fields; and, unhappily for the present prosperity of Oregon, too many of them are turning their attention to other and more profitable pursuits. Hence a flourishing trade in wheat and flour, through false impressions and the neglect of government, has passed, for the present, into the hands of our South American neighbors.

It will be seen, however, that within the last few months, things have assumed an entirely new aspect. The illusion has vanished. Those terrible breakers which lashed themselves in error between us and the peaceful bosom of the ocean are hushed into quiet. In the total absence of light houses, buoys, etc., vessels, as will be seen, are carrying on a prosperous trade. Wheat, flour, butter and cheese have been exported in limited quantities. The chief business, however, has been in the lumber trade. Already the trade has assumed the form of a regular commerce. Not less than five millions feet of lumber, besides a large number of house frames, have been exported from this port this summer. The Oregon City milling company alone has shipped a million feet in addition to the demands met for city use. In the list of vessels we have merely noted their appearance in the Columbia, so that this list covers both the arrivals and departures. Three small vessels have been built here this season. And all are actively engaged in profitable trade.

The lumbering business has scarcely commenced. The exports of this summer are only a small first fruit in the great trade that will now, with a sure and steady progress, grow up in this Territory. For this kind of commerce, Oregon stands unrivalled. More magnificent forests of fir, cedar and pine are perhaps nowhere found. The accounts given of Oregon timber have seemed to our friends in the States absurdly extravagant. Yet when they are seen, the beholder stands in amazed and delighted astonishment. Their altitude elevates the soul with the genuine feelings of the sublime. With these forests the slopes of our magnificent mountains are densely covered. And down those mountain slopes and amid those glorious forests come tumbling, in rushing torrents and beautiful cascades, thousands of creeks and rivers affording endless hydraulic privileges. The outlet to the produce of these mountains is through the mouth of the Columbia, and the market is the whole eastern world.

Can it be that the American government will longer neglect a point of so great national importance as the Columbia river? Oregon has now commenced her upward course with lengthened strides, and she will force her way rapidly to wealth and greatness; but it is certainly not unreasonable that we look to general government for a just and liberal attention to our interests, as well as to the great national interests in this Territory.

Henceforth let no one say that shipwreck and death will be the fate of the luckless mariner who shall attempt the entrance of the Columbia. This river is easy of entrance, and, with ordinary knowledge and prudence, it is entirely safe. But all this does not do away the necessity of having the channel indicated so plainly that it can be easily followed in dark and foggy weather. This done, and every obstruction to prosperous trade will be removed; and Oregon commerce will soon whiten the bosom of the broad Pacific.

EMIGRANTS.—Emigrant parties are coming in slowly from the mountains. Inclusive of a company of twenty-seven wagons, the arrival of which is daily expected, there have some fifty-five wagons arrived in this valley. Others are reported as coming in on the northern route, but how many we cannot learn. It is also reported that there are emigrants coming in by the southern route, but of this we have no definite information.

The Cascade mountains are generally on fire, and the road is badly blocked up with falling timbers.

The Nisqually Murders.

We learn that the Indians on the affray at Nisqually, in the fall of 1848, were killed by Wallace, an American settler, and were in the country of the Indians awaiting their trial. The fact is that at that place on the first Monday of the month, for the trial of these murders, in the hands of the passing of the first district, we feel every confidence that justice will be done, and the Indians will be punished, and that American blood cannot be atoned for with impunity.

Advertisements.

The attention of merchants, ship mechanics, and all others who will flourish in their business, is called to the importance of advertising in the Spectator. Our terms are so liberal, and so far below the market value of everything else, that we will doubtless be liberally sustained in this department.

Notices of public meetings, ecclesiastical notices, marriages, etc., published gratuitously.

We would further suggest that merchants, shippers and others at San Francisco, California, would do well to avail themselves of the medium of the Spectator to extend their business in Oregon.

Legislative Assembly.

This body adjourned last Saturday, September 29, after a session of seventy-six days. A very fair and respectable code of laws has been adopted. It is, however, far from being complete; but, all things considered, it is creditable to the Assembly and entitles that body to great praise. The situation of members to the duties of their station was consistent and diligent. Our columns are so crowded this week that we cannot go into details on this subject, but pass it over merely remarking that we propose devoting a considerable portion of the next number to a review of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly.

We, however, call the attention of the public to the approaching election, as a matter deserving special consideration. Having a good general system of laws, it becomes essential to the public good that we have a complete corps of officers to enforce and execute our laws. We are now almost wholly destitute of a civil magistracy. Hence the wisdom of the present election, that the deficiency of civil officers may be speedily supplied. We hope every citizen in the territory will take a lively interest in this matter, and that good and faithful men may be chosen to fill the various offices.

The following officers were elected by the Legislative Assembly: A. P. Skinner, esq., Commissioner to settle the Cayuse war debt. Bernard Goussie, esq., Territorial Auditor. Col. James Taylor, Territorial Treasurer. Wm. T. Mallock, esq., Territorial Librarian.

Dr. James McBride, Superintendent of Common Schools. Wilson Blain, Superintendent of Public Printing.

C. M. Walker, esq., Prosecuting Attorney for the first and second judicial districts.

David Stone, esq., Prosecuting Attorney for the third district.

Gen. A. L. Lovejoy and W. W. Back, esq., Commissioners to let the printing of the laws and journals.

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Gen. A. L. Lovejoy and W. W. Back, esq., Commissioners to let the printing of the laws and journals.

PRESIDENT'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.—Though somewhat out of season, yet as this is the first paper issued in Oregon since its reception, we take pleasure in presenting to our readers President Taylor's inaugural address. It is a short, sententious and sentimental document—just what we would expect from the "Ironical Rough and Ready."

GOV. LANE'S MESSAGE.—We invite the attention of our readers to the message of his excellency Gov. Lane, delivered to the Legislative Assembly at the opening of its present session, and published in this paper. If the judicious suggestions of his excellency were fully carried out, it would be a happy thing for Oregon.

GOLD IN NORTH CAROLINA.—A letter from Monroe, North Carolina, to a gentleman in this city, dated 17th inst., gives the statement that four men found, in Union county, twelve and three-quarter pounds of gold on the Thursday and Friday preceding. Others were finding gold in more or less quantity every day. Gold was found within eight miles of Monroe. The discovery of this rich metal had given an impulse to business in that section of country, and things were looking up. Snow was falling at Monroe at the time of writing the letter. It was then two inches deep, and every prospect of continuance. —[Charleston Courier, 24th.]