

James's street, who happened to be at New Haven when the ex-King arrived, placed his dressing case at the disposal of his Majesty, and in acknowledgment was commissioned to go to town and procure a supply of the necessary articles for the ex-King's toilette."

The Atlantic and the Pacific—the Panama Route, &c.

For a great number of years past, the necessity of forming a communication between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans has been much discussed and commented upon by the politicians, statesmen and capitalists of almost every nation in the world. All admitted the feasibility of constructing such a work, and the advantages which the annually increasing commerce of the world would derive from it; but from a variety of causes, the project, although universally admitted to be attainable, fell through, after the preliminary surveys and other preparations had been undertaken. Rights and privileges have been several times granted by the South American governments which possessed within their territory suitable routes and also, by the Mexican government; but they have been forfeited by non-use and non-acceptance with the terms upon which they were granted.

The acquisition by the United States of an immense tract of territory on the Pacific side of the American continent, growing out of the war with Mexico, and the transfer of the bay and harbor of San Francisco, one of the finest, most spacious and safest in the world, reopened the question which had been temporarily suspended, and offered to the characteristic enterprise of the American people a wide and exclusive field for its development, on a magnificent scale, and of unbounded advantages within its easy grasp. The benefits of certain routes from some convenient point on the Mississippi to San Francisco, across our own territory, as an individual enterprise, and as one to be undertaken by the government of the United States directly, or by individuals for grants of land along the line, from the Congress of the United States—a line from a point in Texas via the Rio Grande to California—the Nicaragua, the Tehuantepec and other routes, were discussed and advocated, and the advantages and disadvantages of each set forth particularly and minutely by its respective friends and admirers, until the subject was exhausted. The consideration of this important matter occupied, also, the attention of the late administration; for it is well known that Mr. Buchanan, Secretary of State under the late ex-President Polk, instructed the American commissioner to Mexico to negotiate on the part of the United States, for the canal of the Tehuantepec route; and from information that we have recently received from an authentic source, was directed to offer to that government the sum of fifteen millions of dollars for the desired privilege, which was declined.

In the meantime, and while the subject was being discussed in all its points and bearings in the United States, some enterprising merchants in the city of New York, who have for a number of years past been largely engaged in the Pacific trade, obtained a very favorable grant from the government of New Granada, of the route across the Isthmus of Panama. Arrangements for a survey were immediately made, and fulfilled in a very satisfactory manner. The result is most encouraging, and this work will be commenced immediately. It is not necessary, it appears, to have more than twenty miles of railroad, viz: from Gorgona to Panama; the remaining distance between Gorgona and Chagres to be traversed on the Chagres river, which, it is ascertained, is navigable to that extent, and for which a steamboat of iron is being built in Philadelphia. It is estimated that the cost of the whole work will not exceed one million dollars; and so great is the confidence which the proprietors of the grant from the New Granadian government have in the work, that they have determined to take for themselves nine hundred thousand dollars worth of stock, leaving but the remaining one hundred thousand dollars to be subscribed for by others. The books of subscription will be opened on Tuesday next, and will be closed at three o'clock of the same day. Short as the time will be, we have no doubt that the sum will be contributed. The expectation, founded upon the reports of the survey, is, that the railroad portion of the work will be completed in one year, so that we will probably have a steam communication, by land and water, between New York and San Francisco, and also with China, in about twelve months from this time. The advantages which such facilities will furnish to commerce, as well as to travellers, have been so fully and frequently dilated upon, that it is unnecessary to repeat them at this time. [N. Y. Herald.]

THE PANAMA RAILROAD.—We alluded recently, in general terms, to the success of the surveys in their efforts to obtain a short route across the Isthmus, and to the probability of the immediate construction of the railroad from Chagres to Panama; but we were in error in stating that the parties interested had determined, themselves, to take nearly all the stock. We are informed that they are ready to take any portion that may not be wanted by the public; but it is their wish to have the public interested in the stock, and their intention to distribute it among them.

In correcting this error, we take occasion to say that, since writing the article in question, we have seen Col. Hughes, Gen. Morris, and other gentlemen attached to the surveying party, who arrived in the Crescent City. They have all returned in good health, and delighted with the results of their labors, having succeeded in selecting a route in every respect far

better than they expected, and no doubt the best on the continent of America. Their exploration has been most thorough, for a road forty-six miles in length, having run lines in different directions to the extent of three hundred and forty-seven miles.

We have also seen Lieut. Porter, of the Navy, who speaks in the highest terms of the harbors on both sides, and who from his experience in such matters, having been engaged on the Coast Survey around our own harbor, is most competent to give an opinion. He brings home to the comprehension of our own people the harbor of Navy Bay, which is to be the terminus of the road, by comparing it in capacity to that portion of the East river lying between Blackwell's island, drawing a line across at Governor's island. And while such is its capacity, it has every advantage, in the stillness of its waters and freedom from winds and currents.

It is unnecessary to add any further remarks upon what we have on various occasions said of the importance of this road, and of the large results from the moderate cost of the same. [New York Herald.]

IRREGULARITY OF THE U. STATES MAIL STEAMERS BETWEEN PANAMA AND CALIFORNIA.—Extract of a letter from I. T. Mott, American Merchant at Mazatlan, to Commodore Jones, Commander of the Pacific Squadron, dated "MAZATLAN, July 11, 1849. "The bad management, and great want of regularity in the steamers, so far, have completely deprived them of all confidence; in this quarter many complaints are made, and with reason. In the three which have lately touched here from San Francisco, all the letters destined for this port were taken to San Blas, and in consequence, a consignment of gold, which should have been landed at San Blas, was taken to Panama, and the unfortunate consignee is still waiting for a return of the steamer to get his gold. The Panama and Oregon—the former passed here on the 25th ult., and the latter yesterday; both got on shore on the passage down. The Panama on the shore off Mazatlan Bay, where three vessels were lost in '47 and '48, and the Oregon struck on a reef of rocks three days out from San Francisco. The Captains said nothing about these accidents when here—they have the information from the passengers."

From the Pacific News
"Mr. Editor:—The arrival of another 'mail steamer' in our harbor, with no U. S. mail on board, calls for an expression of public opinion that shall no longer remain unexpressed by the proprietors and agents of the 'Pacific Mail Steamship Company.' From the commencement of their contract to the present time, they have continued to set at defiance the wishes and interests of the people of California, and to persist in a course determined to conduct their business, rather than the rights of the citizens of this country."

Their contract with the United States government requires that they shall use every effort to effect the regular and speedy transmission of the mails from the Isthmus to San Francisco and Oregon, and their wanton neglect of, and indifference to, the faithful performance of their obligations in this respect, calls for the severest reprobation of our citizens. There is probably no place of our size on the globe, where such immense pecuniary responsibilities rest upon the speedy and regular transmission of the mails; and that our citizens should be forced to such great sacrifices, through the unfaithfulness of a minority, avaricious, over-paid, perjured monopoly, is an injustice that calls for an unflinching demonstration on our part, that we will no longer submit to such a flagrant violation of our rights. We trust that our citizens will move in this matter, and present to the proper power a faithful exposé of the unwarrantable delay our mails are subjected to, and the selfish motives that influence the contractors and their agents in this gross injustice to us.

ONE OF MANY CITIZENS.
THINK BEFORE THOU SPEAKEST.—First, what thou shalt speak; secondly, why thou shouldst speak; thirdly, to whom thou mayest have to speak; fourthly, about whom or what thou art to speak; fifthly, what will come from what thou mayest speak; sixthly, what may be the benefit from what thou shalt speak; seventhly, who may be listening to what thou shalt speak. Put thy word on thy fingers' ends before thou speakest it, and turn it these seven ways before thou speakest it; and there will never come any harm from what thou shalt say.

AN EXAMPLE TO BE FOLLOWED BY READERS.—He had a method of putting things so mildly and interrogatively, that he always procured the readiest reception of his opinions. Addicted to reasoning in the company of able men, he had two valuable habits which are rarely met with in great reasoners: he never broke in upon his opponent, and always avoided strong and violent assertions. His reasoning commonly carried conviction, for he was cautious in his positions, accurate in his declarations, and aimed only at Truth. The ingenuous side was commonly taken by some one else; the interests of Truth were protected by Mackintosh. [Letter by the Rev. Sidney Smith on Sir James Mackintosh.]

VERDICT.—The following verdict was given by an eastern coroner: "We believe firmly that the deceased came to his death by falling from the top of the mainmast on the bulwarks; fell overboard and drowned; washed ashore and found to death; and then carried to the watch house and eaten up alive by rats."



THE SPECTATOR.

OREGON CITY:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1849.

Neglected Interests of Oregon.
It is a thankless task to find fault.—And it may be that a fault finding disposition may incapacitate the mind for judging the conduct of others properly, but really we see so many of the interests of this Territory suffering from neglect, that we cannot remain silent. We have already referred to this subject, but we wish to press it on the attention of those concerned, until they are at least convinced that we will not endure in silence their negligence. In the present article we propose summing up the matters of grievance on which there is just ground of complaint.

MAIL ROUTES AND POST OFFICES.—This is an interest which affects our entire population. Is it not perfectly astounding that under the enlightened and liberal government of the United States, ten thousand American citizens should be left without the usual facilities of intercommunication. Whose is the fault? We hear some complaint in reference to Mr. Allen, the post office Agent for California and Oregon, but we have been led to form so favorable an opinion of his character, that we will wait still farther developments before we yield to the suggestion that he is not faithful to the duties of his agency. But we are yet of the opinion that in all equity, Oregon is entitled to his presence for a few weeks. And if he will give us as many weeks as he has months to California, all our wants can be satisfied. Or if he cannot come, if he will empower us, we will perform the duty required gratuitously, and lose but little time as it in the meantime. Post offices can easily be supplied along the river. Now the Willamette valley above Oregon city contains about two thirds of our population. At present a semi-monthly mail would be amply sufficient. To complete the circuit of the valley would require a distance of over three hundred miles. And from frequent conversations with responsible men we believe the contract could be let for \$3,000 or less. And thus some twenty post offices and a population of near 7,000, would be supplied. And yet for the want of this small accommodation the inhabitants of some of our most beautiful counties are immured in intellectual dungeons. We promise Mr. Allen a pleasant visit, and light labor if he will come up, and arrange these matters for us.

THE VACANT JUDGESHIP.—A vacancy has existed in the bench of Judges for months past, and no word arrives to inform us that it has been filled. We would be loath to suppose that the President and his cabinet regard with indifference the execution of the law, and the administration of justice in the Territory. Yet we are puzzled to conjecture on what account they suffer an office of so great importance to remain unfilled.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY.—Why has this officer never been appointed? or if appointed why not here? Nearly a year has passed away and an important office remains unfilled. Does not this also seem to display an unaccountable inattention to our wants?

MONEY REMITTANCES.—This is another of our grievances. Why has there been no money remitted to this Territory to defray the expenses of its government. There was an appropriation altogether of \$32,000 for the civil government of this Territory. So far as we can learn this money has not been forwarded. The year for which it was appropriated expired on the 30th of last month. It is surely time that it had arrived. The officers of general Government know very well that funds are needed to defray the expenses of the government of Oregon as well as other countries. Why have they neglected this matter? The most part, if not all, of this appropriation is now due, and in these monied times the funds would come exceedingly convenient to those to whom it is due.

REVENUE CUTTER.—We believe a vessel sailed for the Mouth of the Columbia to be employed as a Revenue Cutter, but was wrecked before its arrival at its destination. If our information is correct in this matter it is certainly to be regretted; for the presence of such a vessel is greatly needed at the Mouth of the Columbia. It is to be hoped another vessel will be ordered out at the earliest possible period. While this port is wholly unprotected it may naturally be expected

that foreign vessels will trespass on the revenue laws of the country, and not only detract from the receipts at the custom house, but also from the profits of American shippers and traders. Nor would we affirm that this very case has not occurred already in more than one instance. If our rulers were as zealous of the dignity of their laws, and the rights of their citizens, as would comport with their patriotism and official obligations, we would not long see such a port as the Mouth of the Columbia left unprotected. And while on this subject we would further remark that a good steamer of sufficient power is just the thing needed at the Mouth of the Columbia. In consequence of adverse winds the vessel bearing the mail for this Territory has been lying outside the bar (as is supposed) for some time past. A good steamer might perform a double service. While it could successfully discharge the office of a Revenue Cutter, it could tow in the sail vessels, which are now compelled to wait, sometimes even for weeks, for favorable winds in order to pass the bar.—Still in this matter there is as yet no special ground of complaint. We have not referred to it with this view, but rather for the purpose of urging strongly on the attention of Congress the vast and vital importance of making liberal appropriations for the construction of light houses, and other improvements indispensable to the safety of the shipping in this river. We would suggest whether the revenue accruing at the port of Astoria, or a portion of it, might not be appropriately devoted for a period of years, to the improvement of the entrance to the river. Of one thing we are quite confident, that at the present prices of labor, the appropriations must be greatly enlarged before much will be done towards this great work. But while the present rates of labor will cause the work to be very expensive, the present activity of trade will in an equal degree enhance the profitability of the work, so that while there is much on the one hand to cool our ardor there is enough on the other to stimulate our zeal.

But we forbear any further enumeration of neglected interests; and in conclusion, recommend the above interests to the cordial regard, and kind attention of those concerned. We are strong in our confidence that when these subjects are presented to the liberal minds of American statesmen, they will receive a due portion of attention. The evidences of a generous consideration on the part of general government have greatly multiplied within the last year. A civil government has been established and is in successful operation. A military establishment commensurate to all our wants and dangers has been extended over our entire Territory. In these measures we have great assurance that in time our wants will be properly attended to, and every just ground of complaint removed.

Geology.
We would much rejoice to enlist more interest in the geological and mineralogical character of this Territory, than it has heretofore enjoyed. In another portion of the globe has nature more beautifully displayed the different varieties of geological formations in one view than in this Territory. In a small scope of Territory the various epochs, or periods of geological formation, are distinctly marked.—Here the student, with a few of the elementary principles of the science fixed in his mind, will find the full page of nature spread before him, and from the traces of her own hands learn the secrets of her most intricate teachings. Almost within a days journey may be found specimens of nearly all kinds of rocks. Here for example, between the Cascade mountains and the Pacific shore, may be found the primary rocks, particularly granite, nearly all the varieties of the igneous rocks, sandstone, limestone, stone coal, and as rich an alluvium as is usually found on the bosom of mother earth.—We know of no region where the geologist could enjoy equal natural facilities for the acquisition of a thorough knowledge of this noble and interesting science.—Nor do we hazard much in the assertion that when the geological character of this Territory has been thoroughly investigated, and its truths made known by some master in the science, it will effect some important changes in the theories of some of our leading geologists. While at the same time the most casual observer will notice a remarkable degree of harmony between the system adopted by standard writers, and the whole face of nature throughout this country. That this country has at some remote period in the past been the scene of the most sublime and stupendous convulsions we have all around the plainest ocular demonstrations.

Here is a field then comparatively new

to the history of the sciences. The little which has been written in relation to it only serves to quicken our appetite for more. And we look forward with glowing anticipations to the period when the light of science will be poured into the mysterious depths of nature's lore in this Territory, and when in return these rugged wilds will add more luminous brilliancy to the truthful page of science.

But we despair of seeing this excellent work accomplished, until the panic for gold has to some extent subsided. We could soon enlist a host of mineralogists by announcing that gold abounded, but the universal mind is so completely absorbed in the "greed of gain," that it seems hopeless to turn it to any other subject. And however inconsistent it may seem in this very hopelessness we see hope spring up. Many intelligent and thinking persons will thus be drawn into the mineral regions, and their "prosperity" will reveal incidentally much information which when the thirst for the "dust" has been satisfied, will be brought to view, and will serve to give judicious direction to future explorations. Hence, though nothing is regarded as of any value that does not secure an ample amount of gold, we hope science will be receiving her dues at least indirectly.

OUR CABINET.—We have now worked our way to the point had in view in the outset. We have commenced the formation of a scientific and literary cabinet, the special object of which is the collection of samples of the natural productions of Oregon, and of the literary and historical documents which shed light on the past history of the Territory. We desire especially to obtain specimens in geology, mineralogy, and conchology. And we would solicit the favor of personal cooperation on the part of intelligent gentlemen who feel interested in the scientific history of the Territory. Rocks, miners' shells both of salt and fresh water origin, and natural curiosities, such as chrysalises and petrifications, will be thankfully accepted. We wish to make our cabinet not merely the source of private amusement, but also of public utility, so that donations to it will be regarded not only as personal, but also public favors. With a small amount of cooperation we would be enabled to form a cabinet which would be a rich inheritance for a Literary Institution.

Evening Amusements.

The long winter evenings now call us to reflection. These evenings must be occupied in some manner, and they will be spent profitably, or otherwise according to the inclination or habits of different individuals. And now that our city is full of young men who have no special employment in which to occupy their evenings, it becomes a subject of great interest whether any, thing can be done to render these evenings profitable. If no other means are devised, we may surely calculate that very many of these excellent young men will be lured into the resorts of vice and gambling, and ere the vernal suns of another spring shall clothe the earth with bloom, they will have fallen into destructive habits, and their innocence, their vigor above all price, will be lost forever. And at present it seems almost to be a choice between idleness and vice. But why should this be? It is true the only public library in the city is boxed up, and the means of gratifying a taste for books are exceedingly rare; yet there are ways in which our citizens may be truly entertained and extensively instructed. We should be greatly pleased to witness an effort to get up a lyceum, or a course of lectures, and by the way an occasional temperance meeting. And we daily meet too many intelligent and educated gentlemen to be easily persuaded that such an effort would not be successful. There are undoubtedly persons in the city capable of lecturing with great success and general utility. Nor is the range of subjects appropriate to such lectures confined within a narrow sphere. The history of the human family, and the archives of nature spread before us their voluminous tomes to tempt us to the delightful task. May we not appeal to the generous benevolence of all; and especially to the christian humanity of our religious men to engage in the good work? Or shall we be shut up to the painful conclusion, that filthy lucre has thrown an iron chain around the public mind and bound it fast to Mammon's chariot wheels?

Happy Removal of a Nuisance.

James Parkinson, an old inebriate, having been in the habit of frightening the ladies and children of our goodly city by his drunken frolics, managed at last to find accommodations in the guard house. After remaining in durance for a few days he was turned over to the civil authorities. While the room was in preparation

for investigation Mr. P. proposed to leave the Territory. An arrangement was accordingly made for his shipment to some other country. Thus this community was relieved of a most grievous annoyance. We would not in general approve of this method of disposing of such nuisances, but Mr. P. wished to return to the States where he has both in Virginia and Mississippi, respectable relatives, and where, if his friends cannot take care of him, there are work houses, and houses of correction in which he can be disposed of more easily than in Oregon where there is neither jail, nor prison of any kind, except the guard house in the military quarters.

But we cannot let the opportunity pass without reminding our readers that they may calculate with certainty on being thus annoyed, so long as they cherish in their midst an illegal traffic the very aim and end of which is to manufacture just such crazed and troublesome specimens of humanity.

From California.

THE CONVENTION IN MONTEREY. BILL OF RIGHTS, SLAVERY EXCLUDED. NEW FROM THE STATES.

We are indebted to the politeness of Andrew Hoad, Esq. of this city for copies of the Pacific Weekly News of Sept. 13th and 22d. This is a new paper just started at San Francisco, and it is decidedly a readable sheet of about the size of the Spectator. It is got up in a neat and tasteful style of mechanical execution and well filled with a choice variety of both original and selected reading matter, from which we have selected beautifully for the present paper.

From the "News" we learn that the Convention in session at Monterey are making progress with the Constitution. The reader will find the bill of rights adopted as a basis of the constitution in another column. It is a manly and enlightened exhibit of human rights, and civil liberty, and every way worthy of a free and noble people.

We do most heartily rejoice that the Convention have by a unanimous vote decreed, that slavery, or involuntary servitude, except for crime shall never exist in the State of California. This vote was truly in accordance with the light and civilization of the age. And it is to be hoped that this will settle the question in Congress at least so far as the Territory on the shores of the Pacific is concerned.

The news from the States by these papers is no later than what we have already published. Yet as we find it condensed and some new items included we make liberal extracts.

They have been having some warm times at Panama between the Americans detained there and the Agents of the mail steamers. It has been customary for persons on their way to California to be detained at Panama longer than is agreeable to good nature. In August last the sojourners at Panama had accumulated to nearly 300 persons. Patience being exhausted a public meeting of Americans was called. At this meeting a number of resolutions were adopted denouncing in the strongest terms the course pursued by the Agents of the mail steamers. The Agents on their part made out a strong defence by acting on the principle that there is nothing like stoutly denying.—From the manner in which the whole mail service is discharged in this department, if the contractors and their Agents do not receive a thorough overhauling at Washington city, they will not receive justice at the hands of their employers. And we are really glad to see that inquiry is being exposed; and we hope ere it is got through with that it will be ascertained that Americans the world round cannot be trifled with. For the information of our readers we place an extract from the Panama Star in our news department, from which something may be learned in relation to the matters in controversy.

We notice nothing new or interesting from the "diggins."

From a letter to a gentleman in this city dated Oct. 27, we learn that prices were on the rise at San Francisco. Pork was selling at \$37 per barrel. Flour \$15, per barrel, and on the rise, butter quick sale \$1 per pound. One cargo of lumber had just sold at \$250 in \$250 per M.

Gen. Smither in Oregon at present.

Gen. Smither is in Oregon at present on business connected with the military service in this country. He, accompanied by Col. Hooker, visited our city a fortnight since. By his courteous and urbanity of manner the General secured the high regard of all who enjoyed the opportunity of making his acquaintance.

During his stay in the city the troops stationed here were mustered to the number of about 200 men; and though it rained most of the time, they made a fine appearance.