

THE SPECTATOR

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 1850.

Civil Government of Oregon.

We have at length reached a crisis in our civil affairs which should awaken the strongest and most earnest anxieties of every heart. We are compelled by truth and duty to announce the alarming fact that we are in a state of total anarchy.—There is, so far as we can see, no legal protection for either person or property in this Territory. We asked one of our ablest lawyers the other day how we should proceed to procure a warrant, or *habeas corpus*. His reply was that he knew of no officer who was authorized to issue either. Can the citizens of this city sleep quietly in their beds in this total absence of civil officers, while the place is infested with so many groggeries, and drunken vagabonds. We have no civil officers, and what is worse, there is so far as we know, no legal way of creating any.

The only remedy for this unhappy state of affairs, at least in this city, is in the revival of the city corporation. We do hope this our last call will be heeded, and city officers be elected. If this is not done, then murder and robbery may be perpetrated, and no security can be enjoyed except in repelling force by force. With a proper board of city officers a degree of order may be preserved until other officers are created. When Gov. Lane is gone Marshall Meek will be the only Territorial officer at the Seat of Government.—How a people can thus rest quietly on a volcano, while the means of escape are at their option, is past our comprehension.

The Temperance Society.

What will the christians, and temperance living people in the States think, to be informed that notwithstanding the number of groggeries are weekly on the increase, and drunkenness, gambling, and vice are growing worse and worse daily, yet there has not been a temperance meeting in this city for ten months past?—Will not christians anxiously ask each other can it be that our Rev. brother— is there yet? What can he be doing? Yes, there are some four or five active and efficient ministers besides a goodly number of intelligent and influential christian and temperance men in this city.— But sure enough what are they doing?

Navigation of the Willamette.

We had prepared an article of some length on this subject, but the energy and enthusiasm with which our intelligent and influential capitalists taken hold of the steamboat enterprise is of itself sufficient evidence of the navigable qualities of this river. The persons who have taken stock in this company are all acquainted with the character of the river and their perfect freedom in investing their capital in this enterprise is conclusive proof that they have full confidence in the feasibility of its navigation. The appearance of a steamer on our waters will at once settle the whole question as to the most available commercial points, on the Columbia and Willamette.

Four Men Drowned.

We are informed that about the first of this month four gentlemen, returning from California, where they had been engaged in mining, were unfortunately drowned at the Mouth of the Columbia. These are the facts as reported to us. The Brig Forrest, was lying off the Mouth of the Columbia, and in consequence of not having made a suitable provision for the voyage the passengers were put on short allowance. They, as was natural, became dissatisfied with their situation, and anxious to escape from such cheerless accommodations. Capt. Williams at length and with reluctance allowed a party of men to take a small boat and attempt a landing. The party consisted of Mark Ford, Esq., of Polk county, two young men by the name of Stephens, whose friends reside at Portland, and John Plummer of Oregon City. They had with them a large amount of specie and gold dust. Their attempt to go ashore proved disastrous. They were overwhelmed in the breakers and perished. Three of the bodies were washed ashore and found.

We sincerely deplore this calamity, and sympathize with the friends of the deceased. We always regret the loss of the active and enterprising young men of the Territory. They are the bone and sinew of the country. Mark Ford Esq., was a gentleman of much promise to the country. He enjoyed a good education, had legal reading; and

bid fair to stand high among the active and influential men of the Territory. He was during one session of the Provisional Legislature, an active member; and he is said to be the author of the able and interesting memorial to the Congress of the United States in relation to the War with Mexico, and the Cayuse war.— His loss is not only a great bereavement to his friends, but also to the Territory.

When will the commanders of the vessels on the Columbia learn the first principles of humanity, and lay in a good supply of food and water before leaving San Francisco. We hear constant complaint on this subject. Vessels sail for the Columbia with provisions for ten days or two weeks, while they know with a moral certainty that they are usually out from six weeks to two months, and sometimes even longer. If there is no other way of correcting this outrage on humanity we would suggest that the passengers ought on all occasions by committee, or otherwise assure themselves of a supply of provisions for at least two months before sailing.

Wreck of the Josephine.

In our last paper in speaking of the wreck of the Josephine, we made the following remark. "We would be pleased yet to be furnished with such an account (an authentic one). The loss, we believe, falls heavily upon the Oregon City Milling Company, the lumber on board belonging principally to that company."— Through the kindness of Gov. Lane we are furnished with a more minute account of the disaster. From the statement before us it appears that the Josephine sailed from Astoria at about 11 o'clock, A. M. on Friday, Dec. 14th 1849, with a tolerably fair wind to run into Baker's Bay. She was piloted by a drunken Indian, the captain, crew, and passengers being unacquainted with the channel. The wind continued favorable till where the channel turns across from Clatsop shore to Chook Point, then it subsided to a perfect calm—the tide ebbing rapidly. The anchor was cast, but she was despite her anchor drifted out into the South channel. In the night the wind blew a gale from the East,—the tide again ebbing consequently by the combined force of both wind and tide she was drifted clear out into the South channel; and at 6 o'clock on the morning of Dec. 15th she struck a sand bar. This was probably the bar making out from Point Adams. Still hurried on, "amid the breakers, by wind and tide, at half past seven o'clock the masts were cut away, and she was so much damaged otherwise that all hope of saving her was gone.

There were sixteen persons on board and only two small boats. In these all those on board made their way through difficulty and danger to Cape Disappointment, which they reached in safety. The vessel was abandoned about on a line between Cape Disappointment and Kalamook head. Every thing on board was lost except some money and a chronometer of the Captain.

The following are the items of the cargo as found on the books of the vessel.

201 Bunches of Potatoes, containing each 1 1/2 bushels, and belonging to McKinley & Allen, Fort Vancouver.

16,760 ft. Hewed lumber, belonging to Kilburn & Co., Oregon City.

88,480 ft. Sawed lumber belonging to Kilburn & Co.

29,000 ft. Sawed lumber belonging to Charter Party.

12,000 ft. Sawed lumber belonging to Charter Party and Oregon City Milling Company.

Hence it appears that we were in error as to the principal losers. The loss falls on Kilburn & Co., and the Charter Party of the vessel.

It is to be hoped that navigators about the Mouth of the Columbia will hereafter be careful about employing drunken Indian pilots.

Joseph Meek Marshall of Oregon.

We find the following paragraph in the New York Weekly Tribune, of Sept. 22d. "Meek is an old trapper, who has been about 72 years among the mountains of Oregon.—He is so illiterate as to be able to do little more than write his name, although James K. Polk, with a full knowledge of the fact appointed him to the office of Marshall of Oregon."

Mr. Meek has been a resident of this valley nearly ten years, now supposing he was twenty years of age when he went to "the mountains of Oregon," he would at this present writing be 102 years old.— And we can assure our readers the old gentleman enjoys a vigorous old age, and does ample honor to the appointment of "James K. Polk" by the prompt and vigorous discharge of all his official duties. Notwithstanding his extreme age, for aught we can see, he may enjoy life for forty years to come. And though illiterate in book learning yet his acquaint-

ance with "the mountains of Oregon," acquired by a residence among them for nearly three-fourths of a century, taken in connection with his activity and perseverance, point him out as just the man that will be in demand when the great national railroad is to be located and constructed through "the mountains of Oregon." And as he has been peculiarly prompt and faithful in every office with which he has been entrusted, we will be his bail in this case notwithstanding his extreme age. As we like to be minute in our chronologies, will the Tribune please inform us in what year Mr. Meek was born?

Deseret—A new State.

Our readers will be interested with the news from the Great Salt Lake. The Mormons are determined not to remain always second best. We hope Congress will give them a good government and appoint officers who are not Mormons, and who will keep them away from the Oregon road while the emigrants are en route for this country. Our cattle were spirited off towards Salt Lake in '48 and so also were the cattle of our fellow travellers. We have heard of such things since. We hope the erection of a civil government there will have a tendency to arrest these evils. Yet this movement of the Mormons must be regarded as one of the strange and peculiar developments of the spirit of the age. Three years since Salt Lake was a desolate place in the midst of the great American Desert and a thousand miles or more from any civilized settlement. And now it asks to be regarded as a populous state of civilized people.

Gov. Lane's Departure.

It will be seen from the proceedings of the Steamboat Company that Gov. Lane has consented to visit the States as Agent of the company. No one, acquainted with the condition of things in Oregon, can justly take any exception to the course pursued by his excellency in this matter. The commerce of the Territory by the mere force of circumstances has crowded itself to its present flourishing condition. But it has reached its ultimate extreme. Nothing but steam power can force it any farther. This power it is now proposed to apply, and there is perhaps no man in the Territory better qualified than is Gov. Lane for giving direction and energy to this enterprise. We regard its completion as involving the permanent prosperity of the Territory.

As for any exception that may be made to the propriety of the Governor leaving his official post we are persuaded that all who sincerely regard the prosperity of Oregon will agree that in the present peculiar conjuncture in our affairs he can serve us more extensively in this private enterprise than he could in his public station. The civil government of this Territory is virtually dissolved, and hence the Governor being literally alone could effect but little as Governor of the Territory. Under these circumstances it must surely be proper for him to serve the country, and promote its welfare as best he can.

From California.

We have the Alta California up to Dec. 1st, but we find little in it out of the ordinary course of events. Sickness in the mines had measurably subsided though in the congregated thousands of the Placers and living as they do it is not strange that we hear still of many deaths by sickness, murders, and suicide. The murders and suicides are a phase in the state of society in the mining region deserving of special study.

In consequence of the early commencement of the rains mining had to a very great extent been suspended, and preparations for winter were in active operation. The roads had become so very muddy as to preclude the possibility of land travel. We notice however that the steamer Senator had for the first time made the trip from Sacramento to San Francisco in one day. And from the number of steamers plying there we infer that the ease and comfort of travel are greatly improved.

The new State Constitution has been adopted by a vote of 9939 to 750.

At the general election Peter H. Burnett was elected Governor by a majority of 3499 over the next highest candidate McDougal is chosen Lieut. Governor, G. W. Wright and E. Gilbert were chosen representatives to Congress, by respectable majorities. Thus the State of California needs only admission into the galaxy of our glorious sisterhood of Republics to be permanently secure in her civil government.

The Alta California makes the population of this new State amount to 100,000. We were much entertained with his manner of footing up the figures so as to make that number. For example he reckons on the 30,000 or 40,000 who came across the plains. True those persons are in California, but who and what are they? Out

of the 30,000 there were probably 1000 females. One third, or one half of the males left wives and children behind them in the States. Many of the remainder are roving young men who are of no value to any country. And we will venture the prediction that of those who seriously crossed the mountains with the intention of settling a large proportion will locate finally in Oregon. And these remarks are equally true of those who came by water. The immigration at the port of San Francisco for the month of July amounted to 3614 of which 40 were females. And these are the figures that are added together to make it appear that California has a population of 100,000.— Well—well.

Since the above was in type we have additional news from California.

A destructive fire occurred not long since at San Francisco, by which a whole square, embracing some of the best buildings in the city, and among them the Parker House, was laid in ruins.

At latest dates Sacramento city was rapidly becoming submerged by a Freshet in the Rio Sacramento. Serious apprehensions were entertained for the safety of the city.

Sandwich Islands.

We are indebted to the editor, Rev. S. C. Damon, for a file of "The Friend" from Honolulu up to Oct. 15th. All was quiet there. There is nothing new in reference to the French difficulty. We have marked some few items for our next paper.

In consequence of the continued high water, and other matters of a domestic nature, we have not been able to give that attention to the distribution of the two last numbers that would have been desirable. We hope to be able to attend to this matter more promptly hereafter.

SATURDAY.—Having been disappointed in our help in the office the publication of this weeks paper is delayed to this late hour much to our regret.

A Man Lost.

We regret to learn that David Carter, residing at Salem, Marion County, disappeared some ten days since, in a fit of melancholy or monomania; and, as no trace of him can be discovered, it is feared that he is drowned.

The New York Spectator learns from the Washington Republican that the Governorship of Oregon has been tendered to Maj. J. P. Gains of Kentucky, Mr. Lincoln having declined its acceptance. Maj. Gains accepts.

Just as our paper was going to press we are authorized to state that Governor Lane has received private news which rendered it wholly inexpedient for him to leave Oregon at present. He thereupon tendered to the Board of Directors his resignation of the agency, and it was accepted. So he does not go, much to the regret of the friends of the enterprise.

Gov. Lane's Departure—Steamboat Company.

By the last mail a letter was received from David Wilkins Sen. Esq., of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, addressed "to the merchants and business men of Oregon city," on the subject of the Steamboat navigation of the Columbia and Willamette rivers, and other matters. On the receipt of this letter a large and respectable meeting of citizens was convened.— Gen. A. S. Lovejoy was called to the chair and the subject matters of the letter were discussed, and the propositions of Mr. Wilkins enthusiastically acceded to.

A proposition was introduced to test the feelings of the meeting by opening a subscription for a steamboat company, and thereupon a sufficient amount of stock was instantly taken, for the purpose contemplated and the citizens meeting adjourned sine die.

At six o'clock P. M. same day, Jan. 20, 1850. The company assembled in the office of Gov. Lane for the purpose of completing their organization.

Dr. Elijah White was called to the chair, and Col. James Taylor, Secretary.

On motion of Mr. A. Hood it was agreed that each subscriber shall be an equal stockholder in the company, pay a proportionate share of the present cash investment, and of future expenses, and receive an equal share of the profits.

On motion of D. M. Frost the meeting proceeded to elect three directors which resulted in the choice of His excellency Gov. Joseph Lane, Lot Whitcomb, Esq., and Lieut. D. M. Frost.

On motion Robert Cauffield was chosen Treasurer, and James Taylor Secretary of the company.

On motion it was agreed to send an agent to Pittsburg Pa., to act in behalf of the company.

On motion Mr. Hugh Burns was cheerfully and unanimously elected agent, to proceed forthwith to the States, and act under the direction of the Board of Di-

rectors, for the speedy accomplishment of the objects of the company.

Subsequently at a meeting of Board of Directors, at the suggestion of D. M. Frost and in consideration of the long experience of his excellency Gov. Lane in matters connected with the running of steamboats, it was proposed to recommend to the company to send his excellency as the agent of the company, whereupon the company, while they entertained the highest respect for the character of Mr. Burns as a man of energy and probity, yet believing their interests would be more effectually subserved by the agency of Gov. Lane than by any other person, after much persuasion obtained his consent to accept the appointment.

The arrangements of the company being completed, and the first instalment having been paid in, Gov. Lane will proceed forthwith on the business of his agency.

ELIJAH WHITE, Ch'n.

JAMES TAYLOR, Secretary.

Oregon City, Jan. 24th, 1850.

For the Oregon Spectator.

MR. EDITOR:—The undersigned passengers on the Bark John W. Carter, on her recent perilous trip from California to this country, take this occasion to acknowledge their sense of the deep obligation they are under to Captain Irvine, master of said vessel, and to express, though in feeble terms, their gratitude for his brave and efficient conduct in time of danger, which, through kind providence, rescued them from death by shipwreck, and his kind, attentive and gentlemanly deportment while they had the pleasure of being his passengers.

The "Carter," although she had been run into and had her job, and flying jib, boom carried away by another vessel in coming out of the Bay of San Francisco, made the Mouth of the Columbia in six days and a half from the time of sailing. It being evening Captain Irvine did not wish to attempt the entrance, but very properly laid his vessel off. The next day in a very heavy gale, the rudder pins were snapped off and the vessel became unmanageable and was driven upon a "lee-shore," until her mizen-mast being cut away, she was got under indifferent steerage way and in four days made the Straits of Juan de Fuca, and the day after arrived off Fort Victoria, where she was towed into anchorage, through the polite assistance of Captain Scarborough.

We need not tell you, sir, that while driving dead ahead upon that lee-shore, and the wings of the dark tempest hurrying us on at a frightful rapidity, that we held our lives cheap. But there was one among us, whose noble heart never faltered in the discharge of duty, whose gallant spirit never flinched in that struggle for life or death—who would not give up the ship. Need we say that one was Captain Irvine! We say again that he saved our lives when in imminent danger, when it seemed, almost, that human efforts could be of no avail, and words are too weak to convey but a feeble expression of our grateful feelings. It is our privilege, and pleasure, to bear in thankful remembrance the services of Captain Irvine on that trying occasion; and we cannot conclude without saying to our friends in Oregon and California, who may, perchance, "go down to the great sea in ships," remember that Captain Irvine *did not give up the ship.*

J. H. McMillen, Geo. Hanson,
M. P. Hudson, Charles Blair,
Luke Hinshaw, Thomas Her,
J. L. Lanster, William Berry,
Mr. Morfit & family, John Kirkwood,
Mrs. M. M. McCarver, James Kirkwood,
Adolphus Hanner, John C. Danford,
R. D. Torney, T. S. Kendall,
A. M. Peck, J. Geer,
Smith, Dill,

From the States.
We find a good variety of news from the States in our late papers, the most interesting portions of which we give this week, reserving that of a more general nature for subsequent papers.

We avail ourselves of the summary of the more interesting matters of news found in the New York Weekly Tribune for Oct. 2d and 10th.

Since our last issue, there has been little of especial interest or importance. The dismissal of the French Minister continued to attract much attention for a time, but the brief period of excitement which it occasioned has now nearly passed away. President Taylor having peremptorily declined further official communication with M. Poussin until a reply should be received to the representations made by our Government to that of France, the French Envoy has taken up his residence in this City, awaiting further advice from home.

From Cuba, we have intelligence only of the crops, the weather, and the climate and health of the country. The reported insurrections and invasions have come up among the missing. The valiant corps encamped on Round Island, though not

dispersed, have as yet found no occasion to display their talents, whatever they may happen to be, or whichever direction they may take.

In Canada, there are new evidences of a hostile and unsettled state of feeling between the different political parties. At Bytown, there was a political riot on the 17th ult.—growing out of a public meeting by the friends of the Government, for the purpose of adopting an address to Lord Elgin. The day was spent by the opposite factions in hostile array. Both were armed with guns, fixed bayonets and a few cannon, but toward night were prevailed on to disperse—thus, despite the temporarily threatening aspect of things, bloodshed was avoided, and the affair blew over. The bad feeling, however, is by no means lulled, and may break out again any day.

From Hayti we have no tidings since Souleouque's new assumption of power. It is intimated that the new Emperor's prospects for a quiet reign are not flattering. His nobility have not been created, so far; though the list promises to be very full. He has many friends to reward.

In Florida, the Indians have been still more troublesome—attacking settlements, burning the houses, and barely escaping murders by the flight of the inhabitants. The opinion prevails, however, that the reports are somewhat exaggerated, and that the outrages which have occurred are more attributable to predatory bands of the savages than to the mass.

The Governorship of Oregon has been tendered by the Government to Hon. A. Lincoln, member of the late Congress from Illinois—but he declines. General Edward Hamilton, of Portsmouth, Ohio, has received the appointment of Secretary of the same Territory, and accepts.

The trial of the Astor-place Rioters, in this City, has at length terminated, after sixteen days' work. The whole have been convicted. Judson, the lead spirit of this detachment, ten in number, has been sentenced to the fullest extent of the law—a year in the Penitentiary and a fine; the presiding Judge, meanwhile, expressing regret that the punishment was not more accurately proportioned to the nature of the offense. The other convicted parties, owing to mitigating circumstances in their behalf, have received much more lenient sentences. Full details of the progress of the Trials will be found in a subsequent portion of this paper. Among the cordially portion of our community, there is but one voice of commendation of the very creditable manner in which these prosecutions and the judgments have been conducted by Judge Daly and his associates. The precautions and firmness of the City authorities in the suppression of the lawless violence of Mob Law have been most ably and abundantly vindicated.

Various portions of the Union have recently been devastated by destructive conflagrations. Of these, the most disastrous occurred at Oswego, (N. Y.) on the 27th ult. destroying a hundred buildings, hotels, stores, and nearly all the business portion of the place, to the aggregate value of \$500,000. Rochester and Cincinnati have also been visited by similar, though not so destructive inflictions. Quebec, likewise, suffered on the 21st—twenty-five buildings destroyed; loss about \$25,000.

The Annual Convention of the Old Fellows' Grand Lodge has just closed in Baltimore. The session has been a busy and interesting one. The next will be held, for the first time in the history of the Order, West of the Alleghenies, in Cincinnati—and a week previous thereto, a special session is to be held for the purpose of maturing a new Constitution, a matter much agitated by various members of the Fraternity. From returns of the present state of the Order, it appears that the aggregate amount paid for relief to brethren and to families during the past year, is \$463,948. This includes nearly \$7,000 paid for the education of orphans; and over \$51,000 for the burial of the dead. The number of members under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge, as appears from the returns made at the late session, is about 160,000; and Lodges have been lately instituted in California and Minnesota. Among the important business of the late session was the division of the State of New York into two districts with a Grand Lodge in each, thus settling the difficulties in that State, known as the Old and New Constitution Question. The Old or City party have the Southern U. S. Judicial District—the New or Country party have the Northern District. As to numbers, they are nearly equally divided—near 30,000 members in each jurisdiction.

In the City, we have had a few matters of some interest, though nothing of importance beside the Riot Trials. The Annual Episcopal Convention closed its sittings at St. John's Chapel on Friday evening last, having expended much time and labor on two or three main questions, with no definite results whatever. The case of Bishop Onderdonk was of course a fruitful subject for differences of opinion; but the Convention finally agreed to leave the decision of the matter to the House of Bishops. Another proposition to exclude lay delegates from the sittings of the Conventions, allowing the clergy only participation in the proceedings, was laid upon the table, from the pressure of other matters.

An Association of American Friends of Hungary has been projected by a number of our prominent and influential citizens. It has been determined that the Association, as now organized, will take every opportunity to welcome, honor and aid Hungarian exiles of merit and celebrity; and to procure employment, collect contributions, &c. for those who may be destitute of means. The President of the Association is Mayor Woodhull, with the Mayor of Brooklyn as Vice President,