

TERMS. INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE. One copy, per annum \$3 00 for six months \$1 50

"Westward the Star of Empire takes its way,"

Vol. 4. Oregon City, (O.T.) Thursday, August 22, 1850. No. 24.

BUSINESS CARDS.

F. ARGENTI & CO., BANKERS, draw on Brown, Boscawen & Co., New York. Brown, Nicolson & Co., New Orleans.

JNO. H. COUCH, BENJAMIN STARK, COUCH & CO. BANKERS, WHOLESALE & RETAIL MERCHANTS.

JNO. H. COUCH, BENJAMIN STARK, STARK & CO. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.

SHERMAN & STARK, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, NEW YORK CITY.

J. QUINN THORNTON, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW, AND SOLICITOR IN CHIEF.

A. A. SKINNER, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW, AND SOLICITOR IN CHIEF.

J. D. & W. C. HOLMAN, HAVE formed a partnership, and will keep on hand a variety of Dry Goods and Groceries.

GEORGE GIBBS, SHIPPER AND COMMERCIAL AGENT, Custom House Buildings, Astoria.

WILL attend to all business connected to him in the preparation of legal papers, the recording and discharge of deeds, receiving commissions for sale of lands, &c.

ROBERT CAUFIELD, MERCHANT and general dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries and Provisions.

W. W. CHAPMAN, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW, PORTLAND, OREGON.

W. T. MATLOCK, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW, AND SOLICITOR IN CHIEF.

ABRAHAM SULGER, COMMISSION MERCHANT & AGENT, PORTLAND, OREGON.

Geo. RILEY, U. S. A., California. Geo. P. F. SMITH, Oregon. David S. BROWN & Co., Philadelphia.

GEO. ABERNETHY & CO. MERCHANTS, OREGON CITY, OREGON TERRITORY.

SALT. Ranka Liverpool salt, 30 macks Hyacinth table salt.

GABRIEL WINTER, B. G. LATIMER, WINTER & LATIMER, COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

FROST & CO., WHOLESALE, RETAIL & COMMISSIONER CHANTS, Astoria, O. T.

JAMES FROST, JOHN GARDNER, HIRSHMAN LEONARD, WILL receive and execute all orders of country merchants for the purchase and supply of goods.

THOMAS V. SMITH, MACHINIST AND ENGINEER, Astoria, O. T.

A Scene in the World of Chance.

"Times are not as they used to be." One evening, as alone I sat, Absorbed in meditation, Indulging an inquiring mood Of silent cogitation;

The following proceedings of a meeting held in Xenia, (Greene county), Ohio, on the 27th of April, 1850.

After a considerable number of citizens had assembled at the Old Town Run School house on the 4th of May, the house was called to order by Jno. Shields, esq., Robt. Brown was appointed Chairman, and J. A. Turnbull appointed Secretary of the meeting.

The object of the meeting was stated by the Chairman, viz: to consult in a free, friendly and social manner on the subject of emigrating to Oregon.

Also to devise some plan to pursue in regard to carrying these objects into effect. Addresses and information on this subject were called for by the Chairman.

The house was highly entertained by an able and interesting address by Jno. Shields, esq., on the importance of emigrating to Oregon—on its climate—soil—productions—temperatures—advantages, general resources, &c., &c.

Addresses were also delivered by J. Hemmick, D. M. Kyle, Robt. Brown, and others, giving important information on subjects connected with the enterprise, &c.

The following resolutions were discussed and adopted unanimously. Resolved, That a committee of four, viz: D. M. Kyle, J. Hemmick, R. Brown and J. A. Turnbull be appointed to obtain all the information possible in regard to Oregon—its climate—temperatures—products—soil—general resources, &c., &c., and also to correspond with any other companies (contemplating emigrating to Oregon) on the propriety of sending delegates to explore and examine the country and climate, &c., and report at the next meeting.

Resolved, That Mr. Jno. Shields be authorized to write to Mathew Roberts now in California to transmit us all the facts at his command concerning Oregon—climate, &c., provided he should explore that region.

Resolved, That we adjourn to meet at this place on Saturday, the 15th of June, at 2 o'clock, P. M. to consult further on this subject.

Resolved, That these proceedings be published in the "Torch-Light." ROBT. BROWN, Ch'n. J. A. TURNBULL, Sec'y.

We extract the following from the correspondence of the "Pennsylvanian," dated May 30: We had territorial business before the House to-day, the only important bill passed being one to authorize the commencement of negotiations for the extinguishment of the Indian titles to lands west of the Cascade mountains, in Oregon.

you now for intelligence on that particularly. One thing tho' I do not know—One complex thing. In what state are the Indian titles of Oregon? Have they been purchased by government of the Indians, and how much and where and of what tribes? What progress is there of the liquidation of claims and the removal of Indians from the west side of the Cascade range, and what sections of that belt are most likely to be cleared first, and how soon? Do white colonists settle indiscriminately on any lands they may choose, regardless of Indian rights?

From the best intelligence in my possession, there is a good, at worst a tolerably bad, country lying to the south of the Columbia, reaching to 42 deg. north lat. on the west side of the Cascade range—particularly on the head waters of the Cowlitz and Chinook, and around Puget's Sound, Admiralty Inlet, &c. Any information from that region would be in great demand with your present interrogator.

Are there any settlements here except the Cowlitz farm of the Hudson's Bay Company and Fort Nequally? Do the H. B. C. still cultivate their Cowlitz farm? What are the facilities for settlement there as compared with other parts, particularly as regards the Indian rights to the land?

I see that in some of your letters you have expressed a hope, that Congress will soon favor Oregon emigrants with a free grant, of say one section (40 acres), of land to each family. From present indications, what can you divine of the future of this scheme?

I should be happy to receive from you, at any time, such intelligence as you can dispense on Oregon, in the shape of public documents, speeches, or manuscript letters from yourself. All of which I can receive at my address as at the head of this sheet, as I shall call at home every few weeks during the summer.

Should be pleased to have a response to this soon as your convenience will allow, as I have an appointment to confer with a few families in a week or two on these very subjects.

Yours, very truly, H. L. FRANKLIN.

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superior in Congress, except the Speaker, who possesses both these qualities, in a degree superior to anything, I have ever before seen combined in one gentleman.

Thurston wants polish; but that is all. He knows well when, where and how, to urge a point most effectively. Already, he has effected far more for his constituents, than was ever before effected for a constituency in a single session by a new member, if not by any member. Mr. Sackett seemed to think it very hard that the people of Oregon, through their legislature, should express themselves against the encouragement of the settlement of negroes among them, by donations of government lands to such as may go there.

Mr. Thurston says that such as have gone there, have professed to rave with the Indians, encouraging them to acts of hostility against the whites, instead of settling down and laboring like the settlers.

OREGON EMIGRANTS.—The Ohio papers state that the tide of emigration to the Pacific in the west is beginning to turn towards Oregon. A large party, numbering some 300, purposes to leave Richland, Huron and Erie counties next week, and will take the overland route to Oregon. They go out with teams, and the means of entering upon agriculture, lumbering or gold digging, as shall hold out the greatest inducement when they arrive.—[Chicago Dem.]

Extract from the correspondence of the "Boston Post," dated at Washington City, April 6.

The slavery agitation is also becoming calm, and apparent agurges portend an amicable and satisfactory settlement of every "vexed question."

California will be admitted into the Union without any clog being attached to the measure. A large majority have already expressed opinions in this effect. Mr. Hamlin in the senate and Mr. Thurston in the house, have done much to bring about this good understanding.

Mr. Hamlin's demonstration of Mr. Calhoun's misconception of facts especially in the case of Tennessee, has admonished many, who were accustomed to rely implicitly on Mr. C.'s statements, that he was not infallible. Mr. Thurston's speech last Monday, on the proposition to admit California as a state into the Union, was accordingly, the "crack" house speech of the session, on that momentous topic.

Mr. T. has taken a position already very unusual, if not altogether unprecedented, for a delegate. He is, by no means, officious or obtrusive, but, on all subjects comprised within his duty as the representative of Pacific interests, he is ever vigilant and ready. He made his debut, the other day, in a few remarks in relation to an amendment to the deficiency bill, appropriating \$10,000 for Indian affairs in Oregon. His remarks were so interesting, racy, and instructive, that his amendment was unanimously agreed to!

A great number of members shook him heartily by the hand, after he had resumed his seat; and one leading member observed that, if he had asked for \$50,000 such a speech would have brought it. After this debate, he received universal respect; a position, by the bye, not easy to attain in congress by a new man, and he only a delegate: for, remember, that a delegate has no vote, and, therefore, cannot reciprocate legislative courtesies. When Mr. Thurston rose on Monday last, he was possessed, at once, of the respectful attention of the house. He introduced himself into the discussion as "the first recognized representative from the Pacific coast," and, although accredited from Oregon alone, he felt himself called upon to express his views upon the question before the house, because of the complicity of interests between his own territory and the state of California.

He described their mutual and reciprocal dependence in a most graphic manner, and completely fixed the attention of the house by his exordium. Mr. T. then took up, seriatim, every objection urged on principle or suggested by expediency, against the admission of California. The constitutional duty of congress to admit her into the Union was exhibited in the clearest manner; and Mr. T. sustained his own arguments by the collateral testimony of Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Berrien. He then enumerated every plausible or specious objection arrayed, by expediency, against her admission, and triumphantly swept them from her path. To the objection of her vast seaboard he demonstrated, by the most competent and credible evidence, that California possessed but "one single harbor susceptible of accommodating any considerable amount of shipping, or that can ever be the locality of any considerable town."

To that of her vast superficial area of 145,000 square miles he answered, that the greater portion of this area was composed of sandy deserts and non-arable land; and the testimony of Capt. Wilkes, Mr. Colton and others fully placed this fact beyond a doubt.

All California, with her 145,000 square miles, cannot offer to the agriculturist a larger farming surface than Massachusetts. But even were every foot fertile, there exists a precedent justifying her admission with her present boundaries.

Texas was welcomed into the Union with a larger area and with wider boundaries. Her area comprised 325,000 square miles, nearly three times the extent of California, and her boundaries will supply material for four states, each containing over eighty-one thousand square miles. Besides, if considered in reference to the slavery question, Mr. T. thought that no friend of slave territory ought to complain; for, even with California, free soil would not exceed six hundred thousand square miles: being less, by more than three hundred and thirty-seven thousand square miles, than the area occupied by the slave states.

Extract from the editorial correspondence of the "Westfield (Mass.) Spectator," dated at Washington City, May 29, 1850.

The House of Representatives was in session a few hours yesterday, and, for a wonder, a little business was transacted. A bill providing for the extinguishment of Indian titles in Oregon was passed, and another, granting 320 acres of land to every white male who shall emigrate to that territory before December, 1855, and a like quantity to the wives (the deed to be given to the wife) of those who are married, was driven through its preliminary stages, and will undoubtedly pass if the all-absorbing slavery question does not prevent it from being again reached.

Giddings, of Ohio, made a characteristic speech upon a motion to strike out the word "white" and admit "niggers" into the territory upon equal terms with the whites. His proposed amendment was rejected by a vote of three to one. Mr. Thurston, the Oregon delegate, made an able speech in defence of the original bill and in opposition to Giddings' amendment; he said the people of Oregon were not pro-slavery men, nor were they pro-negro men; there were but few negroes in the territory and he hoped there never would be more; the people themselves had excluded them, and he trusted that Congress would not introduce them in violation of their wishes.

Mr. Thurston is a young man, an eloquent and effective debater, and a bold and active man, such as are found only in the west; and we predict for him a long career of usefulness and honor. The people of Oregon owe him a debt for his arduous labors in their behalf at the present session which they will never fail to cancel.

The first party for Oregon.—The "Month-mouth (Ill.) Atlas," of April 8th, says: On Friday last, ten teams, taking with them 39 persons, left this place for Oregon.—They go out as emigrants, not expecting to return. The company was made up by Mr. Elijah Davidson, some 67 years of age, who was an early settler of this county.

MISSION EXTENSIONS.—The superintendent of foreign missions in the Methodist Episcopal church, has appointed the Rev. S. F. Hoyt, of the New Jersey conference, principal of the Oregon Institute; the Rev. E. Bannister, of the Onondaga conference, to labor for the educational interests of the church in California; and the Rev. S. D. Simonds, of the Michigan conference, a missionary on the Pacific coast—his definite field of labor to be designated by Rev. Wm. Roberts, superintendent of missions in Oregon and California.

Book and Job Printing. EXECUTED WITH NEATNESS AND DISPATCH AT THIS OFFICE.

from the best information, that these estimates are not overestimated, and that we would just hint that, this most important either for the enterprising industry of the farming community, or the production of the soil: it is our opinion that some reserve some credit. And here let us premise, that the man who doubts the omnipotence of the pioneers in the western wilds, especially those this side of the Rocky Mountains, would hardly have enough to endure the hardships, toils, and dangers necessary to subdue the western wilderness; and consequently, if we had to wait for the agency of such a man, it would be a long time before the wilderness would blossom like the rose.

These few hints, we feel, are but due to the Oregonians, to correct their misapprehensions before it is too late; and, being a citizen of Oregon, we subscribe ourselves,

A LOOKER-ON IN CALIFORNIA. Oregon city, July 30th, 1850.

WASHINGTON, May 11, 1850. EDITOR SPECTATOR: It is just six months to-day since I landed at New York. The mail leaves that city on the 13th, and I am induced to write you a few words over my own signature.

I returned from New York this morning, and was gladdened to receive my Oregon mail, which brought me intelligence of a move in Oregon to establish a line of steamers on the Columbia and Willamette rivers. And it is a pleasing coincidence to me, that in an address to the people of Oregon, which I have forwarded you for publication, written before I heard of your move, I had urged upon our people the importance of owning their own ships and navigation. I was made very happy by the reception of the news that they had anticipated me in the idea. I have previously communicated to you the fact that some of our citizens were building a steamer at New York to ply between San Francisco and Oregon; and I have communicated the fact to some of you at least, that the project had fallen thro', and that the steamer, after she was nearly ready to launch, had been sold, and passed into the hands of Howland, Aspinwall & Co. I need not add, that I was, as you will be much disappointed. The steamer was built expressly for the line, and to be one of our noble rivers, was named the Columbia. As the line was to be run by Howland, Aspinwall & Co., being the head man of the concern, definite information could be given me until his return, further than that she was intended to run between San Francisco and Oregon. My aim was to get her to run up as high as Portland, or as high as she could, for the purpose of carrying the mail. I therefore went to New York to see the company. Wm. H. Aspinwall has returned, and he assures me that she will run up to Portland. I had previously beset them to put a river boat on, with a draught so light that it might run to Oregon city. The other members of the company could not say, till he returned. He informed me, yesterday, that they should probably do so, running it up as high as often as once in two days, for the purpose of carrying passengers, freight, mail, &c., and that after this river was on, the ocean steamer would stop at Astoria and Nequally only. But should the company from Oregon prosecute its plan, the Aspinwall company will not interfere. I hope the project will not be dropped, for capital enough can be raised in Oregon, and if it could not, a place would be found in New York. There is grand set towards Oregon, and will be from this on, so that capital invested in such boats would yield a rich return. I should add, that Howland & Aspinwall will run the Columbia semi-monthly. When the mail comes to be carried twice a month, as it will be after this season, we may reasonably hope not to be shut out from the world as we have been. Six months ago to-day I wrote you a letter from New York, and have not yet received an answer. I hope and believe it will be the last six months in which letters cannot be interchanged between this and Oregon. I also learned from Howland & Aspinwall that they received advices by this mail that a steamer, in pursuance of orders, of which I have previously written you, would be dispatched up to Oregon the first of this month, and regulated hereafter. They profess to me the most anxious desire to accommodate Oregon, and I have faith to believe will do so hereafter. A steamer of 150 tons can be procured for our river trade, drawing only twelve inches water.

The Deficiency Bill, containing an appropriation of \$16,000, of which you have learned, went to the Senate, and there passed with amendments. It then came back to the House and passed there with slight amendments, but is not yet in the Senate. The ten thousand to be appropriated, and will be forwarded the moment the bill is signed.

I receive fresh letters by almost every mail, informing me of companies organizing to emigrate to Oregon next Spring, and stating you five persons from the town of Chicago, the other day, and more are getting ready. Today, I received a letter from two more who have been

HOW IS THIS? A mistake, if not intentionally made, to say the least, is not criminal; but when important considerations are attached thereto, especially if a large body of the people—their rights and interests—are concerned, we should have due care in making statements that interfere with the rights of our fellow-men. While on my way to this place, from California, the above ideas suggested themselves to me, after the perusal of an article in the New York Weekly Sun. Among other things, the article alluded to stated that the prices current of Oregon were much higher than those of California; and gives as evidence, that Butter, in the latter part of the winter, was four dollars and fifty cents per pound, and consequently infers that the Oregonians must be deficient in enterprise, or such a state of things would not exist. Now, so far as the first position is concerned, some things are as high in Oregon as in California; but Butter, the article specified, we are well assured, ranged, at the time named, from one dollar to one dollar and one-half per pound. And at different times there has been large shipments from here to California, of lumber, timber, and the various articles of provisions, notwithstanding a large portion of the male population repaired to the gold mines immediately on the receipt of the first authentic news of their discovery, leaving the farming interests somewhat neglected. At the same time a heavy immigration has been pouring into the country to be fed, they not having time to raise their own food; yet, notwithstanding all this drain upon the agricultural resources of the country, it has been carefully estimated that enough still remains, not only for the consumption of its own population, but for the immigration of twenty thousand persons, which are expected the present year. We think,

from the best information, that these estimates are not overestimated, and that we would just hint that, this most important either for the enterprising industry of the farming community, or the production of the soil: it is our opinion that some reserve some credit. And here let us premise, that the man who doubts the omnipotence of the pioneers in the western wilds, especially those this side of the Rocky Mountains, would hardly have enough to endure the hardships, toils, and dangers necessary to subdue the western wilderness; and consequently, if we had to wait for the agency of such a man, it would be a long time before the wilderness would blossom like the rose.

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