

**Let us not quarrel.**—The Senate of the United States has spent more than half a century upon the Compromise, and almost every Senator was not privy to its origin, its amendment, or because of its failure to give in some way conspicuous evidence of the glory to be obtained in the event of a settlement, it was not considered. All the leaders of the Southern States seem to have worked themselves up into such a consciousness of the importance of this subject, that, unless it was so modified as to suit their particular views, they, individually, were so confident that they could not, after a just comparison, give it their approval. There was a time when business could be done in the Senate; but that time seems to have passed away—the Senate was once a dignified body, when the speaker was entered by a stranger it was with a feeling of reverence. But times have changed and the people have changed; it has been made the theatre for the contests of gladiators—it has been turned into a political gymnasium—the men who have stood by the country and fought her battles, and successfully combated the aggressions of foreign powers, are no longer considered in the champions of our rights. Now different is the case now, every section has its advocates; the northern extremists make one faction; the southern extremists make another; each has its advocates. Thus, to accomplish any thing, it has become necessary to concede, evad, conciliate and compromise, to get any measure through.

On the Compromise there were the Fremont click, the Howard click, the Texas click, the Hale click and the Calhoun click. In being peace and order out of the confusion of many elements of a disunion, the Southern States would do it by force of arms, power and eloquence. There was a time when the Southern States would have been treated with the same respect as the Northern States. It is the conservative branch of our government, and for years has enjoyed an unequalled reputation. Not during the present session, however, have we observed the superiority of that illustrious body.

It would seem that on the area of our country is extended almost everywhere, and it is found by every eye, that the slavery question has made the breach so wide that the enemies can never be reconciled; nothing short of emancipation, taking the heated expressions of southern ultraists as an index, will satisfy their unjust demands; and the fanaticism of the north are equally strenuous in pushing the proviso where public opinion is decidedly opposed to slavery, and where it would be impossible to force it by legislation. By such means sectional discord is fostered, public business is retarded, and the welfare of the country neglected.

The admission of California has been justly urged from time to time, but it had to give way to the vexed agitation of the slavery question. How conscientious Senators have become! Injustice to humanity cannot be suffered in any shape!

Amid all this fire and smoke, however, Senators are not so conscientious to change routes of mileage. We learn from a report of Mr. Greely, of the Tribune, that but two Senators have claimed their mileage, on the nearest route to Washington. Mr. Fane, of Mississippi, claims an excess of mileage, amounting to \$1356. Senator Dixon, of Louisiana, charged \$200 miles travel, the actual distance by the nearest post route being 1190 miles, excess of mileage \$810. Both of the Senators from Texas received over \$1200 each for excess of mileage. The excess charged by both houses this session amounts to the snug sum of \$73,472,00, so says the Tribune. The Senate, in times past, has been looked upon as the guardians of our liberties; and when dangers threatened, the cry was universal, "Look to the Senate." We fear, at this age of democracy, there are too many conflicting interests to deserve such an ability.

By the same communications on hand, they will be attended to in turn.—The matter of the bill has excluded from this number.

There is no lack of enterprise in the territory; as at nearly every eligible point, it is to be seen evinced the most determined spirit to carry forward all kinds of improvements. Among the enterprising firms we would instance that of Crosby & Smith, Portland, who seem to have discovered the secret of success—they advertise. We call special attention to their advertisement in another column. It should be borne in mind by our business men, that the immense fortunes of Dr. Brandreth, Dr. Townsend and Dr. Wistar, was the result of liberal advertising.—The advertising of Dr. Townsend alone, amounted in one year to \$100,000 and upwards.

On Friday the newly established mail route between this city and the Umpqua went into operation. By this arrangement persons are enabled to communicate with their friends in that valley twice a month. It is not a little gratifying to the people at a distance to see such a spirit of accommodation, on the part of government, to improve the mail facilities as fast as circumstances will admit. Our friends in Polk county would be pleased to have some little attention shown them—as yet they remain in darkness—they have from twelve to thirty miles to the nearest post offices.

The advertisement of S. Goldsmith & Co., Portland, in another column, may be well worthy the attention of the merchants generally through the country.—To direct attention to it may save some of them a trip to California.

**Oregon Land Titles, &c.**

Mr. THURSTON said he wished the committee to bear with him while he briefly stated the reasons for a motion which he desired to make. He was aware that any statement of reasons was not in order, except by the unanimous consent of the committee.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the gentleman could proceed by universal consent. No objection being made.

Mr. THURSTON said:

Mr. CHAIRMAN: it is well known to the committee that over two months have elapsed since the Oregon land bill was considered by this committee. When the committee rose from its former sitting on this bill, and the House adjourned, it was well known and fully understood, that there was a general understanding in the House that the Oregon land bill would be the next business in order after the California bill should be completed. But it was equally well understood, that at that time no one had the most distant idea that the California bill would have been delayed so long. That bill had been laid aside day after day, for the consideration of other business. Now, sir, it is laid aside again, and I move to take up the Oregon land bill.

It is too well known, I am sure, for me to remind the committee, that the people of Oregon have been living and waiting in that territory for the last twelve years, without being able to get a legal title to land enough on which to bury themselves. Every mail which reaches me from that country, brings me intelligence of the complaints of the people, and the distractions which prevail, by reason of being left by this Government in such an uncertain state as to their land, and land titles. They are asking me, why it is that Congress so delays; and I am teased on the right hand and on the left. Two years ago, the Congress nullified all their laws affecting the title to lands, leaving them no security for property or farms but what is found in the law of force. Our people have been loyal—have waited long and patiently—have confided implicitly in the generosity of the nation, and now, I must say it, sir, they are beginning to fear, and to fear justly, that another session of the patriarchy of the country is to pass without relieving their fears or gratifying their hopes.

All these things conspire to render everything in Oregon uncertain and vexatious. By this mail, I learn that Governor Lane has resigned his office, who, it gives me great pleasure to say, has discharged the duties of his office with great promptitude, fidelity, and ability in every respect; but, learning he had been removed, and daily expecting his successor, he has, for reasons not known to me, disrobed himself of his gubernatorial garments, which were by no means dishonored by the manner in which they were worn. His successor has not yet been heard from, tho' the time at which he was expected has long since elapsed. Oregon, then, is without a Governor, unless those duties are discharged by the Secretary of the Territory. This, then, is the state of affairs there, and it is not to be wondered that I feel deeply for the welfare of this people, who have entrusted their interests to my hands: and God forbid that by me they should ever be neglected, deserted, or forgotten.

In view of these facts, I must most earnestly ask the committee to sustain my mo-

tion, and to take up the bill. (Cries from all parts of the House, "Yes, let us have Oregon—oh, take up the Oregon bill—Oregon must be attended to.")

He moved to take up the bill No. 250, making donations of the public lands to settlers in Oregon, &c.

**GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL.**

Mr. BAYLY moved to take up bill No. 334, making appropriations for the civil and diplomatic expenses of the Government for the year ending the 30th June, 1857.

Mr. THURSTON appealed to Mr. BAYLY to withdraw his motion.

Mr. BAYLY said, he made the motion that the committee might have both motions before them and select between the two.

The question was put on the motion of Mr. BAYLY, (being first in order,) and was decided in the negative.

So the committee refused to take up the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill.

**OREGON LAND TITLES.**

The motion of Mr. THURSTON was put and agreed to.

So the bill "to create the office of surveyor general of the public lands in Oregon, and to provide for the survey, and to make donations to settlers of the said public lands," was taken up.

Mr. WESTWORTH inquired if the five minutes rule did not prevail?

The CHAIRMAN stated that the committee were now acting under the five minutes rule, the general debate having been closed.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the pending question was on the motion of the gentleman from Ohio, [Mr. PERRY] to strike out the fourth section.

The fourth section was read as amended when the bill was last up.

The question being on the motion to strike out.

Mr. THURSTON said: Mr. Chairman, I move, merely *pro forma*, to strike out this part of the 4th section relating to American half-breed Indians, to enable me to say a word upon the motion now under consideration, which is to strike out the whole of the fourth section. That motion, sir, was made by the gentleman from Ohio, because the committee had incorporated an amendment into it requiring all foreigners to produce record evidence of the completion of their naturalization, before they should get a final patent for their land. This being the ground of the motion to strike out the whole section, I simply have to say to the committee, that I hope the motion will not prevail, and will withdraw my amendment.

The question was taken, and the motion to strike out was rejected.

Section five was read, as follows:

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That to all white male [American citizens] citizens of the United States, or persons emigrating from the United States, and who shall have made a declaration of intention to become such, above the age of twenty years, emigrating to and settling in said Territory between the first day of December, eighteen hundred and fifty, and the first day of December, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, and to all white male American citizens, not hereinbefore provided for, becoming one-and-twenty years of age in said Territory and settling there between the times last aforesaid, who shall in other respects comply with the foregoing section and the provisions of this law, there shall be, and hereby is, granted the quantity of one quarter section, or one hundred and sixty acres of land, if a single man; or if married, or if he shall become married within one year from the time of arriving in said Territory, or within one year after becoming twenty years of age aforesaid, then the quantity of one-half section or three hundred and twenty acres, one half to the husband, and the other half to the wife in her own right, to be designated by the surveyor general as aforesaid: *Provided, always*, That no person shall ever receive a patent for more than one donation of land in said Territory in his or her own right.

The committee on Public Lands had reported an amendment to strike out the parts inserted in brackets [ ] and to insert the part in italics.

The question was taken and the amendment was agreed to.

Sections six, seven, eight and nine, were read and passed without amendment or objection.

Section ten was next read. The part in italics being the proposed amendment of the Committee on Public Lands.

SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That there be, and hereby is, granted to the Territory of Oregon, the quantity of two townships of land in said Territory, west of the Cascade mountains, and to be selected in legal subdivisions, after the same has been surveyed and offered at public sale, and in quantities not less than one section or six hundred and forty acres, by the Legislative Assembly of said Territory, in such manner as it may deem proper, one to be located north and the other south of the Columbia river, to aid in the establishment of a University in the Territory of Oregon, in such manner as the said Legislative Assembly may direct, the selection to be approved by the surveyor general.

Mr. THURSTON moved to amend the amendment by striking therefrom the words "and offered at public sale."

Mr. T. said he wished to say but a few words, as but a few were necessary to convince the committee that it should prevail. The amendment recommended by the Committee on Public Lands, Mr. Chairman, to the bill introduced by the Committee on Territories, made a reservation of two townships of land for the endowment of a university; but the amendment was so framed as to materially lessen the value of the reservation. The Land Committee's amendment authorized a selection of the land after the public lands should be surveyed, and offered at public sale. Now Mr. Chairman, the bill under consideration is a donation bill, and it is contemplated to be kept in force for five years, during which time it was not in contemplation to bring any of the public lands of Oregon into market. Hence, if the amendment of the Land Committee was to prevail, without amendment, no selection could be made for five years, or while this bill was in force, whereas it is extremely desirable that the selection should be made as soon after the lands were surveyed as possible. My amendment accomplishes this; hence I hope it will prevail.

The amendment to the amendment was agreed to.

The question recurred on the amendment of the committee as amended.

Mr. VINTON moved to amend the amendment of the Committee on Public Lands, by striking out all of the amendment after the word "surveyed."

The committee rose informally, [and a message, in writing, was received from the President of the United States, by the hands of ROBERT G. CAMPBELL, Esq.] The committee then resumed its session.

After a brief explanation by Mr. VINTON—

The question was taken, and the amendment to the amendment was agreed to.

The question recurred on the amendment as amended, was taken, and decided in the affirmative.

So the amendment of the committee as amended, was agreed to.

Section eleven being under consideration, as follows:

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That what is known as the "Oregon City claim," excepting the Abernethy island, shall be set apart and be at the disposal of the Legislative Assembly, the proceeds thereof to be applied by said Legislative Assembly to the establishment and endowment of a University, to be located at such place in the Territory as the Legislative Assembly may designate: *Provided, however*, That all lots and parts of lots in said claim, so donated by Dr. John McLaughlin previous to the fourth day of March, eighteen hundred and forty nine, shall be confirmed to the purchaser or donee, or their assigns, to be certified to the Commissioner of the General Land Office by the surveyor general, and patents to issue on said certificates as in other cases: *Provided,* &c., &c.

Mr. THURSTON moved the following amendment, to come in after the word "and," viz: "Which is hereby confirmed to the legal assignees of the Willamette Sailing and Trading Company."

The question was taken, and the amendment was agreed to.

Sections twelve and thirteen were read, and passed without amendment.

The bill having been read through—

Mr. FITCH said, he had an amendment to propose as an additional section, which was necessary, and which met with the approval of the Delegate from Oregon.

The amendment was read, as follows:

SEC. —. *And be it further enacted*, That no mineral lands or lands reserved for mines, shall be liable to any claim under and by virtue of the provisions of this act.

Pending the question on the amendment of Mr. FITCH.

On motion by Mr. WHITE, a verbal amendment was made on the thirteenth section.

The section was read, as follows:

SEC. 13. *And be it further enacted*, That all questions arising under this act shall be adjudged by the surveyor general, on the principles of justice and equity, subject to the right of appeal by suit, or otherwise, to the courts of the Territory, by the party aggrieved; and it shall be the duty of the surveyor general, under the direction of the Commissioner of the General Land Office, to cause proper tract books to be opened for the lands in Oregon, and to do and perform all other acts and things necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this act.

Mr. VINTON moved to amend the thirteenth section, by striking out the words, "subject to the right of appeal, by suit or otherwise, by the court of the Territory by the party aggrieved."

Mr. V. briefly explained his amendment.

Some conversation and explanations followed, in which Messrs. VINTON, SACKETT, STEVENS of Pennsylvania, and THURSTON participated.

Mr. THURSTON said: Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman from Ohio will withdraw his amendment, I will renew it, if insisted upon, after my explanation. The gentleman withdraws it, and I renew it, for the purpose of explanation. The reason why the thirteenth section was added to the bill, was based on a pre-existing state of things in Oregon. For the last five years the people of Oregon have taken and held their claims by virtue of a clause