

We have several communications on hand which will appear in our next paper. Our friends will please bear with us.

There is no law here regulating marriage contracts. This being the case, we would inform all parties, who meditate matrimony, that we will not fail to make record of the same, upon notice being given of the same. Ministers, Magistrates, and others are requested to hand in the marriages that occur, and we will do what we can towards making such contracts binding on the parties.

The Secretary of the Territory deserves much credit for the comfortable quarters he has provided for both branches of the Legislature. By this arrangement the members are not required, as former members were, to carry their libraries, papers, etc., in their hats. The improvement is a manifest one.

We have learned with regret that the saw-mill of Mr. Lot Whitcomb, of Milwaukie, had burned down a few days since. The fire was discovered at too late an hour to arrest its progress; only in time to save the works in the lower part of the building. The carriage, saw-ash and upper works were all destroyed. We have not yet learned the extent of the damage.—The fire is said to have originated by accident.

We see by the *Balt. American* of August 24th, that Gov. Geo. ABERNETHY arrived at New York on the 23rd, he being one of 103 passengers carried thither by the Steam Ship Crescent City.

The *Tribune* of September 26th, announces the arrival of Judge O. C. PRATT.—His friends here will be rejoiced to learn of his fortunate escape from the cholera, which was cutting off many all around about him prior to, and whilst at the Isthmus. Judge PRATT informs the *Tribune* that there is not gold enough in Oregon to pay emigrants for coming here—that it is not worth the trouble to the Isthmus Valley and the Pacific. We have no inducements in the way of rich gold deposits to offer the future emigrants, but we have good soil, and a healthy climate, which is more reliable, more precious than gold—yes, than fine gold.

THE DONATION BILL.—The passage of this bill in its present form meets with favor by a large portion of the people. It has its objections. Some are of the opinion that the law is faulty in many particulars—that section, for instance, that requires actual occupancy, thus cutting off mechanics and others who wish to follow their regular avocations. It is argued too, that every person immigrating carries a section of land, and that this bill requiring occupancy, cuts many good citizens out of their just rights. Others argue that its provisions are right—that persons engaged in lucrative employments are not justly entitled to a double compensation for immigrating. It is the opinion of some that the law bears too heavily upon bachelors, making no provision for wives for them at a future time—that their not being married, is no fault of theirs; that many of them are so from necessity; that there are not women in the country; therefore the law punishes too severely those who are still living in single blessedness. Although we, individually, belong to the independent order of old bachelors, we have no objections to make. It is our wish that every person may receive his just deserts. In the event of being cut out, we shall make no complaint. We must have editors and printers; all we ask is a reasonable compensation for our services as an editor, and we shall be content to confine ourselves to a spot 12 by 16 feet of the public domain.

Measures have been taken by the "City Fathers" to arrest gambling in Oregon City. The Territorial law is very explicit upon the subject. Notwithstanding, it has been very openly violated for some time. A public meeting was held on Monday evening, an account of which will be seen in another part of to-day's paper. When we contemplate the evils connected with gambling, and look at the matter seriously, and view it with all its concomitant horrors, we are truly pained to see so great an amount of talent prostituted to the god of mammon and this unworthy acquisition of means of subsistence, to say nothing of the disgrace attached thereto.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.—Though brief, is comprehensive, and is not without many good points. It is plain, and can be comprehended by the most humble citizen. The message takes the ground that persons hereafter immigrating to the Territory, deserve grants of land equal to those allowed the older settlers; in other words, that it would not discriminate in the matter of grants to occupants and actual cultivators of the soil. This view is both reasonable and just, and meets with general favor. It takes just as much time now, and is attended with just as much expense in immigrating, as it did five years ago.

We are particularly pleased with that portion relating to the establishment of mail routes and Territorial roads, and earnestly hope that some measures may be adopted forthwith that will improve the facilities of communication between the different points of the interior of the Territory. People in the country complain, and justly too, of the many inconveniences they are subjected to under the present arrangements.

The suggestion relative to improving the road across the Cascade mountains, and affording better security to the future immigrant, is a feature we highly approve of, and as the anticipated immigration will, in all probability be unusually large, it is well worthy of consideration.

The location of the seat of government may cause some little excitement, but the inconveniences and detriment to public business are so apparent, that we think it impossible for another session to pass over without determining its location.

The recommendation of the procurement of a slab with a suitable inscription to represent the Territory of Oregon in the National Monument, will doubtless be acted upon. Certainly, Oregon should not be behind the other Territories in the erection of this great National work.

The apprenticeship of the younger growth of Indians to useful employments, is a good idea if it can only be carried into effect. It would contribute greatly to their future comfort and usefulness.

The getting up of a good code of laws, is a matter in which every citizen of the Territory should feel the deepest interest. The matter is under advisement and we have reason to believe, be acted upon judiciously.

Injustice to Passengers.
The Emily Farr has arrived a few weeks since at Astoria from San Francisco, bringing a large number of passengers. She was advertised to sail to Portland, and many of the passengers engaged passage for that place. Upon arriving at Astoria, the Captain of the Emily Farnham not wishing to incur the expense and delay of fulfilling his part of the contract, shipped his passengers at Astoria. Sui was brot' against the vessel by the passengers. She was boarded by two officers at Astoria, for the purpose of detaining her until there might be a hearing had on the subject.

The Captain having in the mean time obtained loading and supplies, water and provisions, the latter of which he forgot to pay for, and is yet due the merchants at Astoria; the anchor was hoisted, and she put to sea, carrying with her the two officers already named. Some six or eight persons attempted to board her in the capacity of officers, but were foiled in the attempt by the ladder being cut away.—She dropped down below the town a little out of the range of the guns and anchored till morning, when she put to sea without her clearance, with the officers still on board.

We fear the consequences of such an abrupt departure were not fully calculated by the Captain. The vessel is represented as being heavily in debt at San Francisco. Such conduct on the part of a Captain merits the treatment due to a pirate; which there is no doubt he will receive when he attempts to enter any other port. The Captain's name is Tichor; we give it that persons in future may escape the misfortune of falling into such unworthy hands.

The Cholera, says the California Courier, is believed to be on the wane in San Francisco. Up to Nov. 14, only six cases were reported as having occurred in that city; and the opinion is general that it has not as yet prevailed in that city as an epidemic. Its ravages at Sacramento City have not been so great as it was at one time predicted it would be. At our latest advices it was gradually decreasing in the latter place.

Legislative Printing.
The House of Representatives appointed a committee to inquire at what rates the printing for the Legislature might be done for. We were called upon by the committee and asked upon what terms we would do it. We made out a statement and handed it to each House, to the very persons who called upon us. Our statement was handed to the committee for them to consult upon, and was without our name subscribed to it. Yet it was perfectly understood by the joint-committee of the two Houses where it came from. In that form it was handed into the House.—It was the only bid offered, but before any action was had thereon, another bid was put in, cutting a little under ours; which manifestly showed that advantage had been taken of our bid, by a letter being handed around for that purpose. Of this we complained, and accordingly addressed the following to the House.

OREGON CITY, Dec. 9, 1850.
Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I have learned that a bid for the public printing has been handed in, under the name of 50 cents per page. It was my wish, and indeed I had a right to expect it, to meet an honorable competitor in this matter. My bid, as you are doubtless recollect, was submitted first, and was made openly and publicly; an advantage has been taken of it by making a bid seemingly less. I would further state, that the printing of bills, etc., will be done with as great dispatch, neatness, and at as low prices, at the office of the Spectator, as can be done in the Territory.

Yours, &c.,
D. J. SCHENKLY,
Editor Spectator.

A terrible blunder was made out of the above note. It implied that and implied that. It was a reflection cast upon the committee, and upon the Honorable Legislature. It was slow and deliberate attempt to the committee, as well as to the House. Such was the nature of the remarks that fell from Mr. King of Washington county. He was not seated in his seat as a grave Legislator, as supposed by a printer, but he would administer a proper rebuke to any person acting, he cared not from what source it might come; and he did so.

We were not present when the debate on printing first commenced, but we arrived in time to see an exhibition of malevolence that was totally unequalled for, and had no sympathy for any person present. Mr. Matlock took a sensible view of the matter and succeeded in fighting it up. We venture to say there is not another member in the Legislature that could distort the meaning and purport of the note we addressed to the Assembly, as was done by the gentleman from Washington county. It might be proper to state here that Mr. King is not one of the committee on printing.

We were sorry to see a member thus stray from his duty, or so forget his place, as to allow a private quarrel to supersede against the propriety of his character, his action towards us individually. Mr. Matlock was unable to see the blunder that was wanted to be straddled up. Well might he have exclaimed, "what is the meaning of this?"

It was stated in the course of Mr. King's remarks, that for publishing the law in the Spectator a charge of \$500 was made. This assertion has not the least shadow of foundation in fact. There is no charge now in circulation, that it was the intention of the Legislature, whether by vote or otherwise, to pay any compensation.

We regret that the same kind of proceedings, thus to treat the subject of any member of the Legislature, or of any citizen of the Territory, would be a disgrace to the Territory. We would not only ask any person, much less a member of the Legislature, to do so, but our motive and avowed aim, is to prevent our name from being connected with any such proceedings.

Hon. S. THURSTON.—The removal of the bill of the Legislature, to be introduced at the same time with a grant of land to the same. Numerous robberies have been committed in the neighborhood of Marysville, in the vicinity of Springfield. The Marysville will scarcely be charged with the branches of the law at this time. Their removal from the country will clear them.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27, 1850.
10 minutes past 2 o'clock, P. M.
Editor Spectator:—
The President of the United States has this moment announced to the House by message, that he has signed my Land Bill. It is now the law of the land.
Yours, &c.,
S. R. THURSTON.

Mr. Isaac Constant touched his home in this county, on Wolf Creek, yesterday, from Oregon. He came by the overland route—packing one horse and riding another. We have not seen him.—*Ill's Journal.*

The Steamship Columbia, built for Howland and Aspinwall's California and Oregon line, made a short trip on the 11th of October. She is represented by the Tribune as being finely built and well calculated to weather the heaviest seas she will have to encounter on her way round the horn. The Tribune contains the following description of this new steamer.

The Columbia was built by Jacob Westervelt, from Capt. Skidley's design. Her engines, which have 24 inch cylinders, and a foot stroke, which built in the Navy Works. She is 195 feet in length, by 27 in breadth, and 194 deep, measuring 100 tons, according to Custom House, and 1,200 according to the Captain's measurement. She is built in the most substantial manner, with solid bottom and double doors. Her interior arrangements are compact and convenient, every space being carefully estimated and fitted to account. She will accommodate 50 or 60 first class passengers, and about as many in the steerage. Her entire cost was about \$450,000.

We went down the river yesterday to the S. W. Spent with the Columbia, and was put aboard, and she returned to the city to land a portion of her passengers, after which she passed into the East River, on her way to Nantucket. On the passage up, every elegant provision was served, to which she saw sharpened appetites of the company, enabled them to do full justice. The steadiness of the vessel, notwithstanding a sea that occasionally did its spray over her deck, allowed each one to partake without fear of being interrupted. We understand the Columbia will sail in a few days for her destination on the Pacific coast. She is to be commanded by Capt. G. W. Torres, U. S. N., a very experienced and able officer.

The Tribune of Sept. 29 contains the following notice of the new journal commencing that the publishers contemplated starting here. Mr. Stockwell has been selected by Mr. Asahel Bush, to edit and publish the Oregon Statesman, and published by Stockwell & Rowell, at the corner of Oregon City. It is to be a local paper, and the political organ of Mr. Torres, the present Federal Delegate to Congress.

The Columbia, we understand, is to print out the press and materials for the Statesman.

The Oregonian is the title of a new paper recently started at Portland, T. J. Dryer is the proprietor. The paper is to be published, and the first number comes out as planned and sailing as a May number. The Oregonian is to advocate the cause of the people. We congratulate the citizens of Portland, upon their securing the services of so talented and energetic a man as Mr. Dryer, to represent the interests of that portion of the Territory. Success to the editor, success to the Oregonian.

A young lady from Larch, in a post through the place last week, on her way to California. She goes over the land route, and it is reported that she is to meet her betrothed at Fort Hall, some 1000 miles from St. Joseph, some time in June, when they are to be married, and proceed to California. It is said she is to be married to a young man who went to Oregon from Wayne county with Palmer, and who has been very successful in the mines. May the care and smiles of Providence accompany and protect her on her journey.

The above is from the "Brookville American." We are happy to inform the American of the lady's safe arrival, and suppose your friend Cree is in town.—She arrived some time since in California. A messenger having been dispatched some weeks ago, returned last week with the lady in question. We did not see them, but we have been informed that the lady was in the place by her intended, and has a fine future home. Official information has not yet reached us, but there is no doubt in our mind that ere this the news has been made, and are in the full enjoyment of the happy union. Their abode is in Dayton, Yam Hill county, Oregon, as you are informed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1850.
Mr. Editor:—
I was quite displeased a few days since, to learn that you were charged with having put a gross article in the Spectator. I have no objection to your making a full and complete exposure of the charge, but I would request you to do so in a fair and candid manner. I have no objection to your making a full and complete exposure of the charge, but I would request you to do so in a fair and candid manner. I have no objection to your making a full and complete exposure of the charge, but I would request you to do so in a fair and candid manner.

Communications.
To J. Quinn Thornton:—
Most of the participants in the late meeting at Salem seem inclined to treat your good nature and gentlemanly attack upon them with the silent contempt which the people of Oregon are accustomed to treat anything falling from your lips or pen; but I will nevertheless venture a brief explanation, even at the risk of rousing your terrible "anger." You refer to a letter you sometime since addressed to me and complain particularly of my being "one of the persons principally instrumental in getting up the meeting." Now so far from this being the case I had no part or lot in getting up the obnoxious meeting, but attended it merely as a spectator, and asked to be excused when appointed to the committee on resolutions. But the meeting refused to excuse me. I offered in that committee the *pro et contra* you wrote and asked the meeting to adopt, and did my utmost to obtain its acceptance; but every other member of the committee voted against it, alleging that your well known character gave reason to fear some trickery, and in all probability your plausible resolution covered some selfish and dishonest purpose. Farther than this, I have again and again defended you against what I then deemed the too harsh reproaches of others, until I have been dubbed "Thornton's friend by way of reproach, and so exceedingly obnoxious are you to the people of that section that I have oftentimes met with the severest censure for endeavoring to excuse and defend you, and your generosity towards me with a coarse and ungenerously newspaper attack, freely indulged with your characteristic vanity and egotism.

You complain of the language of the resolutions being too impolitic for polite ears, and better suited to the atmosphere of a fish market than that of a respectable public body, and at the same time show yourself to be a perfect master of the bilious-gate vocabulary. The language of your communications would be highly creditable to the presiding genius of an air house, but do not seem entirely proper for the "late chief justice" as you vaingloriously stile yourself. Indeed it is as little suited to the mouth of such a distinguished "late" functionary as that of a "grave legislator occupying the "cheer."

You say you have been solicited to become a candidate for Congress, but that your inclination will not permit you to hold office. Some people are so unfair as to insinuate that you have declined a nomination without ever having been once asked to accept or even thought of for that or any other. But if you should so far conquer your repugnance to holding office as to permit your name to be used, you would probably receive a vote which would be highly flattering to your self-conceit, and useful in showing you the estimation in which the people of the Territory hold you. I will venture the assertion that not one man has in good faith solicited you to become a candidate for Congress, and that not a canoe load could be found who would support you if you were a candidate. He must be a most cruel enemy who would ask you to run for any office in Oregon.

You have quoted a portion of your letter to me. To show your true character and the value to be placed upon your friendship, I will quote another portion. You profess to Dr. McLaughlin to be a true and disinterested friend of him, and you have no doubt succeeded in making him believe you are such. You tell him that Mr. Thornton's attempt to deprive him of the Oregon City claim is an unheard of piece of rascality and wrong, or to use the language of your communication, a "most wicked and unjust" act. Yet you write to me, under date of October 22, as follows:

"I had been my intention to vote for Mr. Thornton; I still desire to do so if I can do it with a due regard to the preservation of my property; I neither desire to look for public station; I have no motives beyond the protection of my property, to pull down Mr. Thornton and assist in the elevation of another. The fact that he seeks to take away the De. claim is itself in a course of quarrel with me. Many good and honest people that they ought to hold on."

Now, here you declare that the attempt of Mr. Thornton to count this "most wicked and unjust" act, this "robbery" as you sometimes call it, is no cause of quarrel with you. You are ready and "anxious" to support him in the face of all his flagrant "wickedness and injustice," and only wait to have the title to your property confirmed as the price of your doing so. The blindest can see that you are a perfect pattern of unselfishness, honesty and integrity, and without comment, I therefore bid adieu to the subject and leave you to bellow forth your spleen and rage hereafter unmolested and uncorrected.

S. PARKER.
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS.—The election for State, district and county officers took place in Texas on the 5th ult. A letter from Brownsville to the N. O. True Delta says:—"The first was some tall voting done at some of the precincts in this county. The Plaquemine vote of 1911 is not a circumstance; at one place, where there were only eight persons living, more than eighty votes were polled. The Mexican population on that day deserted their homes in Matamoros, and crossed over to avail themselves of the glorious privileges of the ballot-box. I regret to mention that the clergy of Matamoros took an active part in our election, and brought over many votes from Mexico."

A ship owner of Havre is about to send out 950 young women to California, as a novel speculation.

Public Meeting.
At a meeting of the citizens of Oregon City, held, by invitation, at the hall of the House of Representatives on the evening of the 6th inst., for the purpose of naming the steambot now being constructed at Milwaukie, Capt. W. K. Kilborn was called to the chair, and Asahel Bush appointed secretary.

Gen. A. J. Lovejoy, Hon. H. Campbell, Hon. W. W. Buck, Gov. Gaines, and Capt. Kilborn were appointed a committee to select and report a suitable name for the steamer.

The committee retired and subsequently reported the name of "Lot Whitecomb, of Oregon," which was accepted and adopted by the meeting.

Gov. Gaines, Hon. Samuel Parker, and Hon. H. Campbell, were appointed a committee to acquaint Capt. Whitecomb with the action of the meeting, and respectfully request him to adopt the name recommended.

A committee of three, consisting of Capt. Kilborn, Gen. Lovejoy and N. Ford, Esq., were appointed to procure an appropriate suit of colors for the boat, and present them to Capt. Whitecomb.

On motion, it was voted, That the proceedings of this meeting be signed by the officers, and published in the Spectator, Star, and Oregonian.

Ated, To adjourn sine die.
W. K. KILBORN, Ch'm.
ASAHEL BUSH, Sec'y.

Public Meeting at Oregon City.
At a meeting of citizens of Oregon City and others, held Monday evening, December 9, 1850, in the First Congregational Church of Oregon City, Hon. J. Quinn Thornton was called to the chair and Jas. D. Sumner was chosen secretary.

The proceedings were opened with prayer, by the Rev. Geo. H. Atkinson, who afterwards stated the object of the meeting to be an expression of the moral sense of this community on the subject of gaming. Rev. Mr. Atkinson offered the following resolution, seconded by Hon. Mr. Payne of Yam Hill:

Resolved, That gaming, in all its forms, is an unmitigated evil.

The resolution was discussed by Rev. Mr. Atkinson, Rev. Mr. Johnson, Hon. James McBride, Hon. Mr. King and Hon. Mr. Payne.

Hon. Mr. Matlack offered the following amendment:—That every reflecting man ought to exert his influence, in the spirit of kindness, to put it down.— And he supported his amendment with some remarks. The discussion was continued by several gentlemen, when the question was taken on the amendment, and it was adopted. The question was then taken on the resolution as amended, and it was unanimously adopted.

Resolved, That we most cordially approve of the steps the city authorities are taking, to put a stop to this evil, and will give them all the support we properly can.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26, 1850.
Editor Spectator:—
Six—I take this occasion to say, that I have this day procured, finally, an appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars to pay those men who took the census by order of Gov. Lane. Between 600 and 700 dollars have been paid to those men. By looking to the law of the 11th Aug. 1848, organizing the Territory, you will see they were to be allowed such a reasonable compensation as should be allowed by law.— No recommendation having been made by the Governor of Oregon as to what would be a reasonable compensation, I took the responsibility of getting it fixed at \$1500. What has been paid to the several men should be taken from the \$1500, and the balance distributed to those men in proportion to their services.
Please publish this for the information of those concerned. Gov. Gaines will attend to the payment.
S. R. THURSTON.
WASHINGTON, Sept. 27, 1850.
Editor Spectator:—
Six—It will be recollection that some time since, I made an endeavor to get an appropriation to continue the survey of the western coast, but the effort failed then by accident. I then applied to the Senate and got the appropriation put in by way of amendment to the civil and diplomatic bill. Then, the matter came up to-day, and we had a tussle again. The committee of ways and means of the House, having recommended that the House non-concur in the Senate amendments, but after debate in the committee of the whole, the committee agreed to the Senate's amendment.— If it is not lost in the House, after the committee rises, we shall get it after hard fighting. If so, Professor Baheo assures me he will have the Columbia surveyed to the Cascades, and the Willamette to the head of steambot navigation.
Should the amendment fail in the House, or otherwise, I will inform you.
S. R. THURSTON.
The wheat crop of Ohio is estimated the present season at 25,000,000 of bushels.