

Oregon Spectator.

OREGON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1851.

J. J. CORNELIUS, EDITOR.

General Correspondence.

THE PLAINS.—As a frontier country, it is probably as part of Oregon territory. The one with which it is compared is the Platte, compared to that of the Platte, the high peaks of the mountains, the high peaks of the mountains, the high peaks of the mountains.

The coal in Oregon.—The rich vein of coal, discovered some time since on a tributary of the Cowlitz river, which is being partially worked, and the late discoveries that have been made at Fort Orford, on the Pacific coast, warrant the conclusion that there is an abundance of coal in Oregon for all the needed purposes that exist now, or will spring up in all future time. It has not been discovered, up to this time in beds, as respects depth, that will at all favorably compare with the immense coal beds found about Pittsburgh and the other great coal districts of Pennsylvania; but although it is found here of much less depth it will compare, we are told, very favorably with the Pennsylvania coal, of the same kind, as to quality. The country about Pepp's Sound is considered large quantities of coal. None of the mines have, as yet, been worked to any very great extent, owing, no doubt, to the high price of labor.

The steamer "Washington" has been taken from above the falls and placed on the lower Willamette. The side wheel steamers appear to succeed best in wheel water. The propellers requiring to be submerged to give them power, which subjects them to the possibility of coming in contact with obstructions in the bed of the river. Though the bottom of the river, in most of the shoal places, is a compound of sand and gravel and cannot prove dangerous to the first mentioned class of steamers.

For the month ending with July, we learn from the Herald, that there were 350 arrests in San Francisco for various misdemeanors. This is an average of 8 per day. Of the entire number, 140 were discharged. The cause, of 35 per cent. of the arrests, is immediately charged to a too free use of the "oh be joyful."

Godoy's Lady's Book for July is on our table. A capital number. The embellishments are mostly original that appear in the Lady's Book. Mr. Godoy's success is all that is necessary to be pleaded in its favor. He has succeeded in pleasing his many readers beyond all calculation. It is furnished, as usual, at \$3 per annum to single subscribers.

Mr. Wainwright, Indian Agent, left here on Wednesday last for the station assigned him on the Uilla river. This post, though far up in the country, possesses much to give it interest, particularly to one fond of novelty. We have no doubt but that the Agent will be pleased with his new home after giving it a fair trial.

The river above is said to be unusually low for this time of the year; though not so low by some 10 or 15 inches as at extreme low water. The Yamhill steamer runs regularly to Dayton, and has had the trade, since the withdrawal of the Geo. Washington, in her own hands.

The editorials of the Statesman continue in their usual strain, with very little "variation." They remind us of a song we have heard, which contained 192 verses, and, as well as we can recollect, is something, all told like the following: "Sandy, say he, will you call me your mill? Sandy sold this man his mill, but still the mill belonged to Sandy. Cnears—Sandy sold this man his mill, but still the mill belonged to Sandy."

The Surveyor General intends to commence surveying shortly, and for the information of our readers we would state that it is of the utmost importance, for persons holding claims, to be in possession at the time the survey is being made; for if the claim of any person is found unoccupied and the school section should fall upon it, it will be reserved for school purposes. It might be well for claimants to observe this notice, as nothing short of occupancy will avail anything. Such are the instructions to the Surveyor General.

ALLEN P. MILLER, Esq., of this city has, we learn, been appointed Clerk of the Supreme Court of the Territory of Oregon.

J. W. PRATT HUNTINGTON, Esq., has been commissioned by Marshal Meek, as Deputy Marshal for the Umpqua and the Southern Counties.

The article "Trick crushed to the earth will rise again," is awarded out of this number, it will appear in our next.

The Mail for the States will leave

The Portland papers, the Oregonian and Times, seem to "take on" considerably.

about the remarks we made from Hillsborough, a few weeks since, relative to the Plank Road Charter. We only made public the reigning voice of those interested in, or subscribers to the building of the road. We were not aware of the conditions of the charter until we visited that place and heard the project explained and commented upon. Our neighbors must not be too sensitive. If they have the means, we will let them build a dozen roads, and make the head of navigation just where it suits them best. The people of Willamette would not object to its being placed at their city. But in locating it we don't want to see our brethren getting into a pot about it, as these things cannot always be managed to suit one's own notions. If our friends should happen to lose the head of navigation by some mishap, they would feel rather badly, after having made so great an ado about it.

The improvement of the Tualatin is gradually going on at the expense of persons acting in a private capacity. It is now clear for 7 or 8 miles at the lower extremity. Some 12 heavy drifts have been removed by persons engaged in rafting saw logs. The task of removing the obstructions is by no means so formidable as was at first anticipated. We have been informed that other persons higher up, and immediately on the river have volunteered to clear six miles of the river as their part. This is the right kind of spirit. The work goes on bravely, and its early completion is just as certain as "rolling off a log." The next inquiry is who will build the boat. The determination of the people above is to have it available at as early a day as possible. So mote it be.

Lost on Milled.—A prominent hotel-keeper of our city, not much accustomed to the jungle of our Oregon forests, left the city some six days since, in pursuit of a Spitz huck. An acquaintance of his saw him the next day he left, between this and the Tualatin plains, only a few rods behind him, evincing an ardour in the pursuit which might be equalled, but not surpassed by the fox hound. I saw him, and saw his horse under him—a noble animal, all wreathing with sweat, but a manly man not surprised by his rider—three days after our first news of him—way high up in the Coast mountains. Any person who will pilot him, shall have horse feed and breakfast free of charge.

PRENTICE, of the Louisville Journal, acknowledges a complimentary notice in an exchange, in the following style: "We scarcely know, dear sir, how to thank you sufficiently. We wish you were the son of the President of the United States, and we were your father."

CENSUS OF ILLINOIS.—We have at last the official figures of the census by which it appears the total population of the State is 2,419,992.

A company of families (in all forty-six persons) from Vermillion county, left this place yesterday for Oregon. The ladies appeared well satisfied with their trip thus far.—St. Joseph Gaz., April 30.

U. S. TROOPS DESERTING.—The Detroit Tribune of Monday says that a company of new U. S. Recruits came up yesterday from Buffalo, and took the cars last evening, destined for Oregon. We are told that at Buffalo 20 of them had deserted, and that eighteen had been retaken.

TWO-SIDED PAPER.—The Hamilton co. (Ind.) Register, is edited by a Whig and a Democrat, each of whom stands up for his own peculiar political faith. The salutatory address says: "Every Democrat should take it, because it is a Democratic—every Whig should take it, because it is a Whig paper. It will contain arguments for and against the doctrines and doings of both political parties," &c.

Somebody thinks that fugitives should be given up, because we should render unto the seizers the things that are the seizers.

The Capitol at Washington is to be enlarged, by the addition of wings.—The plan decided upon is a combination from the plans of several architects in Washington, Philadelphia, and Boston.

The last survivor of the Wyoming massacre, Mrs. Hannah Mills, died at Meriden, Conn., on the 5th inst., aged 88. The massacre, it will be recollected, took place in 1783, by the Indians of the six nations.

During 1850 the estimated exports of Chili for the year were, mineral productions, \$2,115,000; agricultural productions, \$2,500,000; total, \$4,615,000.

Mr. E. McCarty, late of Worcester, New York, was executed last week.

Oregon City, July 28, 1851.

Dear Sir—Your paper of July 24 is before me, and in it I notice a communication purporting to come from the pen of one of the deserters from the Rifle Regiment in the winter of '49 and '50, containing some very gross allusions upon the character of Jesse Applegate, Esq.

I regret that I have not time to enter into a full history of the case and to wholly refute this most base attack.

To those who know Mr. Applegate any denial of these charges is unnecessary, but persons unacquainted with him may be led to believe them if no reply is made.

From the article alluded to, I quote as follows: "A party of these men numbering 97, arrived at Mr. Applegate's in the beginning of March, 1850, and remained there some fourteen days, during which time they expended with him in the purchase of cattle and other necessaries, something over six hundred and fifty dollars. In addition to this they split him over four thousand rails, and eight hundred clap-boards, to be used in the improvement of his claim, for which nothing was asked, and he had not the liberality to offer a single cent of compensation. This took place on the party's progress on the route to California. On the return of the same men in a short time after, with Gov. Lane and Col. Loring, he did endeavor to detain and sentence several of them to run away the second time, offering to conceal and furnish them with provisions and other necessities until such time as all search for them might be discontinued, and then to assist them on their route to California."

Bring myself a member of Gov. Lane's party, I had an opportunity of knowing something about the matter in question, and know these charges to be wholly, totally, and outrageously false.

The deserters arrived in the Umpqua, as stated, in March 1850, and immediately applied to Mr. Applegate to purchase beef, &c., at the same time plainly intimating that if he did not see fit to sell they would take what they wanted by force. He was alone and unprotected, and choosing the least of two evils, he preferred to sell his cattle rather than be robbed of them.

A portion of the men, however, had neither money or provisions, and by reason of the inclemency of the weather, were compelled to remain. To these Mr. Applegate (being compelled to feed them) proposed that they should work while they remained in the neighborhood, and receive a fair compensation for their labor. They accepted his proposition, and he and the other settlers employed them in making rails, for which they were paid \$1 per hundred (and board.) I saw Mr. A. pay a portion of the money myself, (\$18, I think.)

The clap-boards mentioned were not made for Mr. Applegate, or ever used by him, but were made by the deserters for their own benefit, and used by them in building a shed to protect them from the rain and snow.

The charge that Mr. A. endeavored to "entice several of them to run away a second time, offering to conceal them and furnish them with provisions, &c., &c., I know to be foully and flagrantly false.

Mr. A. never offered any inducements to the men to desert, but on the contrary endeavored (and in one or two instances succeeded) in persuading them voluntarily to return. He also gave to Gov. Lane and Col. Loring every assistance in his power in effecting their object of overtaking the men, and accompanied Col. Loring as far as the Klamath in the capacity of guide.

I am at a loss to conjecture what could have been the motive of this perjured deserter in thus vilifying the character of a man who not only has never injured him, but on the contrary has often extended the rites of hospitality to his fellow soldiers and perhaps to himself.

For the Spectator.

CASCADIA, July 28, 1851.

Dear Sir—A gentleman from Ft. Laramie, arrived here this morning. He states that he traveled from that place with a party of emigrants from New London, Iowa. There are about thirteen persons in the company, including three families. He left the train (numbering seven wagons, with ox teams) on the Umatilla. They crossed the Missouri river at St. Joseph, on the 22d of April. But few emigrants were congregated at that place. Spring opened unusually early. They have journeyed thus far, with little difficulty; their cattle being now in good condition. But they passed a train, with horse teams, in which the animals were greatly exhausted. A portion of the company intended going to California, but were advised by Laramie that it was hazardous for so small a party to attempt the journey in consequence of the hostility of the Indians along the route.

An Indian died last night, whose death was probably occasioned by the brutal act of a single individual.

laws regulating trade with the Indians are violated. The continual distribution and use of ardent spirits amongst them, is not merely prejudicial to themselves alone, but greatly disturbs the peace, and impairs the safety of the white inhabitants, contiguous to Indian villages. There is too much apathy prevalent in this country, concerning this practice. All well disposed citizens should regard it as a conscientious duty, to bring to justice the offenders for such grievous violations of legislative enactments; and great good would probably result from greater vigilance on the part of the Indian Agents. That "inevitable destiny"—that "mysterious fading away of the red man before the face of the white," remains no longer a mystery to me. Prostitution and rum, do the work. I would suggest to philanthropic admirers, that if they would preserve here the "remnants of a noble race," they must, firstly, dismember a numerous class of bipeds, which now infest this country. Their color, and general appearance, clearly indicate their descent from the Caucasian race; and at some previous time in life, they probably thought themselves to be men. Secondly, they must prevent the introduction and use of intoxicating liquors.

The Mail for the Salt Lake Valley yet remains at Columbia City, for the reason that no office has been established at this place or the Dalles. It is expected that necessary arrangements will be completed this week; and that the Mail will proceed on Monday, the 28th inst.

Yours truly,

JUSTIN CROWTHER.

D. J. SCHNEELY.

For the Spectator.

My Dear Sir—I am happy to inform the citizens of Oregon that an amicable peace has been concluded with the Rogue River Indians by Governor Gaines. I am sorry to see any reflections cast upon our Governor for this step. The perseverance with which he met and overcame difficulties to accomplish this most desirable end, is worthy of all praise. By reason of protracted and severe sickness, there was no Agent in that field when the Governor, at the risk of his life, resorted to the theatre of war and carnage. By his prudence and good management, he finally collected the Indians, and they were in peaceful counsel when I arrived. The next day the treaty was concluded, to all appearance, greatly to the satisfaction of the Indians. I believe the Indians on their part will respect the treaty if they are not molested by the whites. All white persons, therefore, who may have occasion to travel or abide in that country, are respectfully, but most earnestly requested to aid the officers of Government in maintaining peace and a good understanding with these tribes. The conditions of the treaty are, to give up prisoners and property on both sides. The whites are to give up all property they have taken from the Indians; the Indians are to restore the property they have taken from the whites. For this end those persons who have taken horses from the Rogue River country, are requested to restore such horses or mules, or an equivalent, to the Agent without delay. Persons who refuse to do so, make it necessary for the law to take its course, which obliges me to double the amount, besides meeting all cost. Of course the Government will redeem its own pledge. All persons who have lost property by the Rogue River Indians, are requested to send in bills, with the prices of such property at the time and place of the loss. Sufficient testimony should accompany such bills, to satisfy the Government that the property was really taken or caused to be taken, or destroyed, or lost by the Indians. Such bills may be directed to me at Oregon City, or Clatsop, or Clatsop, or Yoncalla, Umpqua co. Persons who take this step, make out their bills properly, accompany them with sufficient testimony, may rest assured that their property will be restored to them, or an equivalent will be retained out of the monies to be paid to the Indians for their lands. Persons who have sustained great losses are respectfully requested to use forbearance. We may not be in a situation to make all their damages good at once. It will not be prudent to retain so much of the monies as to irritate the Indians, until we have an efficient force in that country, either of troops or settlers, to keep them in awe. The commissioners have appointed the 15th of Sept. to meet the Rogue River Indians, and to treat for their lands; and let me again most earnestly entreat my fellow citizens traveling among those Indians, to use every possible method to maintain peace and a good understanding. A little rashness on the part of a single white man, may prevent our purchasing the country this season and involve the government in great expense. From testimony on all hands, the great loss of life and property, were brought about by the brutal act of a single individual.