

Oregon Spectator.

OREGON CITY:
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1851.

D. J. SCHNEBLI, EDITOR.

Editorial Correspondence.
MAYVILLE, July 23, 1851.
Benton county, as much of it as we have seen, differs but little from that of Polk in its general appearance. It is, however, better supplied with timber.— The great distance from market and the want of river navigation, have tended to retard the growth and development of the country in an ordinary way. The farms are mostly small, and the owners are not having any encouragement, except in some things beyond the ordinary family. The farms under cultivation produce well; the soil is fertile, and the situation of the country is really beautiful.

Marysville, the county seat of Benton, is beautifully situated on the western bank of the Willamette. The beach is quite level and the site, though quite level, is elevated some feet above "high water mark." The town is small—it contains some 12 or 15 houses, four of these are occupied with stores. The town proper is built upon Mr. Dixon's claim. At the lower end of the town, Mr. Dixon has a ferry across the Willamette.

There are many things conspiring to render this an important point on the Willamette river. It is immediately on the great thoroughfare leading to the valley above, and is accessible from both sides of the river; and is near, if not quite at the head of navigation. It is said, however that small boats could, by a light expenditure, ascend some 12 miles farther, to the mouth of the Long Tom, though the landing is poor. The trade of a large district of country round about Marysville will of itself, make it, in time, quite a business place.—All the roads running through the valley above, center here, which give it an importance, in the way of land communication, above every other town on the river.

It is useless, though, to talk of building towns in Oregon at this time. The reaction caused by the passage of the donation bill, is visible in all the towns of Oregon.—It is equally so in Oregon City. This county, though, has suffered as much, if not more from the dire effects of gold hunting as any other portion of Oregon.

The agricultural importance of this part of the Territory will be greatly enhanced by the improvement of the river, so as to admit of steamboats running here at all times. The people here are deeply sensible of the advantages that will flow from a regular steamboat communication with the river towns below. They feel sufficient interest in the matter, to assist in making the desired improvement. It should be made a special object with our Delegates to get an appropriation from Congress to dredge and otherwise improve the Willamette river. It is next in importance to the Columbia of the Oregon rivers, and drains a country that is capable of sustaining a population of some three millions. It ought and must, sooner or later, be done—the traveling and business interests loudly demand it.

OUR BOOK TABLE.—"The Heirs of Derwentwater," by E. L. Blanchard, reprinted by Dewitt & Davenport, is before us. This exciting and interesting novel has been very favorably received in the United States. It can be seen at this office. Price 50 cents.

"Boarte; or, the Salons of Paris," by Major Richardson, author of "Waccusca," "Hardscrabble," &c., has been received. "The plot of the novel is an instructive one; and from it a great moral lesson may be learned." Price 50 cents.

"OREGON, ITS HISTORY, CONDITION AND PROSPECTS," by the Rev. Gustavus Hines, and printed by Geo. H. Derby & Co, Buffalo, New York, has been received. This book contains 487 pages, is printed in fine large type and well executed. The author is well known to many of our readers as one of the early missionaries in Oregon. The work begins with a description of the cause that led to the establishment of the Methodist Mission, the members of which took up their line of march from Independence, Mo., for Oregon, April 25, 1844, under the charge of the Rev. Jason Lee. We have not been a resident of Oregon long enough to judge of its merits as to accuracy. The reputation of the author, no doubt, is enough of itself to commend it to public favor.

About Oregon.
There are many letter writers in Oregon who, in describing the country, its agricultural capacity, &c., greatly exaggerate things, and thereby create many false impressions in the minds of the people in the States. It is a wrong policy for the settlers here, no matter how much they may be pleased themselves, to pursue; it has been the means of a great deal of disappointment. The evil consequences of it are greatly to be deplored. The times have greatly changed within the last 12 months: produce of all kinds has fallen, labor has fallen, and money has grown more scarce. If every writer was as particular in stating the facts as Dr. Anson Dart, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon, has been in the following paragraphs, extracted from the Water-town Chronicle, there would be very few people fooled and disappointed on their arrival in the country. We commend to the especial attention of the distant reader the Doctor's remarks:

"The price of almost every thing in Oregon is coming down. Common laboring hands can now be employed for three dollars per day. (Without board, mechanics from five to eight. Merchandise of all kinds has fallen more than fifty per cent. in price, within eight months. The New Yorkers, Bostonians, and Philadelphians are about to play the same ruinous game for themselves, in Oregon, that they have been playing for the last eighteen months in California, that is—sending more goods for a mere handful of people than would be consumed in one of our populous states.

Look at Oregon, with a population of thirteen thousand, (about enough for a respectable village,) scattered over a country as large as New York and Pennsylvania. What can they do with the ten cargoes of goods now on their way here from the Atlantic cities, and that, too, with a cargo of goods daily arriving here from San Francisco, bought there at auction, at, in many cases, fifty per cent. less than New York prices! It is strange that shippers do not reflect that this is the end of the road—they can neither go forward or back—their goods are no sale. They are to be done with the ship. She is very likely to stay and rot, as hundreds are now doing at San Francisco. I close this paragraph by saying, that certain ruin awaits the shipper of goods to Oregon and California, for one or two years to come.

The prospect for the farmer in this country is quite different, provided he is prepared to do his own labor. He must not hire. The price of the productions of the soil will never be as low in this country as in the States, east of the mountains, for the reason that a large portion of the consumers are constantly working in the mines, and as they will be for many years, although I do not believe that on an average the gold diggers save as much as an industrious farmer. The Klammath men are producing now from six to twelve dollars per day for each laborer.

The country is overstocked with lawyers, doctors, preachers, the more busy merchants, clerks, clerics, and other professions. I have not a single lawyer, doctor, or preacher, and I was about to speak of the prospect for farmers here. I will only say that there are about five males to each female here.

There is a statute prohibiting the introduction of negroes in Oregon. A measure was introduced by one Vanderpool was the cause of bringing this virtual law into honor. It is a virtual law, and it is immediately enforced, and that the negro shall be banished forthwith from the Territory. There is a law of changing laws, it is to be removed from our statute book. A notorious villain, who calls for a reward, has caused this community who have produced a number of years. All men of color have been laid to his charge.—We shall rejoice at his removal. Thirty days are allowed them to clear the Territory.

We have received many complimentary notices from the papers in the States, as to the conduct of the Spectator. It is some gratification to receive such as we copy below from the Western Evangelist:

OREGON SPECTATOR.—By the politeness of some friend, (we suppose Br. Crum) we have received several copies of the above paper. The ability with which it is edited, and its moral cast, will well compare with similar secular papers of our country. Oregon is certainly a rising and promising agricultural region.—Young people of an enterprising character, would perhaps do better to go there, and receive their land bounty, than fish with so much uncertainty (as many do) for California gold.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.—Among the earliest things practised by any of the early Editorials, is the hooking of the Oregonian's local matter by the Statesman, and telling his readers that a "friend writing states," &c., or a "correspondent informs us," &c. If there is anything deserving of contempt, it is this petty mode of pilfering from a neighboring editor. Being on unfriendly terms is no sufficient excuse for such theft.

We have learned from some of the immigrants, who have just arrived, that the Snake Indians, alias Diggers, have been, as was anticipated, quite troublesome to small parties coming to Oregon.—Our informant states that one man was shot at Salmon Falls, whilst in pursuit of some horses stolen by the Indians, and expired shortly after—also that two others were shot at the Swamp Springs, though both were severely wounded, they have partially recovered. No snow, as yet, has fallen in the Cascade mountains.—The late rains, however, have rendered the roads almost impassable in many places. This is exceedingly trying on the immigrant teams in their present loaded and fatigued condition. Some fresh oxen, taken to their lot of those coming in would be most useful in high favor to the weary, and most of our travelers. Some slight assistance has been rendered by persons out after wagons, who have generously volunteered help to those in distress. Would that there were many more!

On Friday of last week the steamer James P. Esch, as she was clearing the landing at the Dalles, first one of her decks which. No other deck was damaged to the boat and her cargo, as persons upon the deck were now in the way of the boat.

Since this article was written, we have of that the accident was caused by the boat being overloaded with cargo, and the deck being so high that the cargo was not properly secured. The boat was now in the way of the boat, and the cargo was not properly secured. The boat was now in the way of the boat, and the cargo was not properly secured.

Disorderly Conduct.—There has been no public exhibition of the same character, by any of our citizens, but we have that a few days ago, a party of the same kind, were seen in the streets, and were not a little noisome to their neighbors. We were not favored with an invitation, consequently we cannot say anything of the disorderly conduct of those who did not know of the party.

The people of the Territory, who have been so long in the States, are now beginning to feel the effects of the new fashion, and are beginning to feel the effects of the new fashion, and are beginning to feel the effects of the new fashion.

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Every arrival of the mail from the States, brings a new crop of news, and a new crop of news, and a new crop of news, and a new crop of news, and a new crop of news.

Two of the best men, for the position they occupy, and for the time, are Governor Johnson of Pennsylvania, and President Fillmore. The unusual popularity of both indicates that they are duly appreciated as public officers.

Liquor Prohibition.—Several of the groceries in this city have reduced the price of liquor to one bit a drink. Possibly the late rains have made water plenty.

Sealed Proposals will be received at the store of Geo. Abernethy & Co., for the improvement of the Clackamas Rapids, until 12 o'clock this day. Bid quick.

Petticoat Revolution.
The new costume, its appropriateness and convenience, has been widely discussed by the press in the States. It is ridiculed by some and highly approved by others; the latter opinion rather prevails. But that it will be adopted as the fashion generally, we have no such idea. The leap from the train dress to the Turkish mode, is too great and too sudden to be favored by those who take the lead in starting the fashions. We give the opinions of some of the leading journals in the States upon the great and absorbing topic.

In the last number of the Lady, Mrs. Blosser thus describes the "new costume": "Our skirts have been robbed of about a foot of their former length, and a pair of hose, made of the same material as the dress, substituted. These latter extend from the waist to the ankle, and may be gathered into a band and buttoned tight around the ankle, or, what we think decidedly prettier, gathered three or four times, half an inch apart, and drawn up to just sufficient width to permit the dress to pass through—they should be made to allow them to fall over the top of the garter and rest on the instep, and may be trimmed or not, to suit the taste of the wearer."

We make our dresses the same as usual, except that we wear no bodice, or but a very slight one, the waist is loose and easy, and without whalebones, unless it be a very high one in front and under the arms. It is better to dispense with them altogether. Our skirt is full, and falls a little below the knee. Some make the dress with a sack front, from the shoulder to the knee, a tight back, and skirt gathered in as usual to cross the hips. The front confined by a belt, or cord and tassels. Others make them with a yoke at the neck, a full waist with a belt, and a full skirt. Each one must be guided by her own taste and judgment in the matter. Shawls are not abandoned, and a neck or mantilla for the hair. A nice fitting bonnet, and a round hat, make the whole complete.

The Boston Globe, in an article on the subject, has the following sensible paragraph: "The new style of dress for the ladies has, in a few months, submitted to the public gaze, and should make a favorable impression upon the fair sex, for its simplicity, its general neatness, and its economy. It is a truly sensible costume, and within the moderate limits of propriety. It is much more fitting for the lady in her ordinary employments, and walks than the hitherto expensive, cumbersome, and inconvenient style, which they have endured time out of mind."

One of the leading citizens of that place, appeared in the new costume, and visited a great number of his friends. The dress was well received.

The ladies of this city, says several ladies, are now beginning to appear in that place in the new costume.

A recent visit was created among the ladies of Point street, yesterday afternoon, by the sudden appearance of a party in the "Boston costume." The dress was worn by her husband, Mr. W. of the name of Lancaster, now at the head of the court in our city. He was prepared to make their acquaintance, and the ice being broken, we presume it will soon be a common occurrence to attract special attention.—Salem Spectator.

The "Boston costume" is now proposed for the new costume which the men are beginning to wear, the Bloomington style of coat, &c.—there is again the "Boston costume." The last news seems to us to be a good one.—Columbia Gazette.

The editor of the Louisville Journal, in reply to the question whether he is for or against the new dress for the ladies, says: "It is, undoubtedly a short dress, and it is not our power to pass much upon the ladies, and we wish, during our short opportunity, to see as much of them as we can with propriety."

The new costume is attracting great attention in England. The movement in the States has taken the London journals by surprise. They are evidently so over-whelmed by the universal protest against it, that they can do nothing but repeat the sayings of the American press.

We had intended including a few articles of correspondence as a set off to the present correspondence of the Statesman, but written by Bush himself, signed "Aspen" and "Milwaukee"; but our correspondent S. has treated the matter so laughably, that we are spared the task. If the Statesman can palm off such stuff as belonging to other people, he can take the premium for meanness. It is just like all the rest of the small fry correspondence that has appeared in that paper—it smells so strong of the shop that the veriest fool can detect it.

The August number of Godey's Lady's Book, has been received. This popular magazine as it grows older increases in interest. It is decidedly the most popular magazine of the day.

The Mail for California and the States will close at the Post Office in this City on Sunday next, the 7th inst., at 12 o'clock.

For the Spectator.
LAKE LA BISH, Marion County,
August 28, 1851.

Ma. Forrester.
Having spent most of the past summer in explorations north of the Columbia river, and in the counties of Clatsop, Washington and Yamhill, I left your city a few days since for the purpose of visiting that portion of the far famed Willamette valley bounded east by the majestic Cascade range, and upon the west by the river Willamette. I took passage at Camanah on board the little steamer that plies between the latter place and Dayton, which is situated upon the Yamhill river, seven miles above its junction with the Willamette. It had been my first intention to have gone by water as far as Salem, but being assured by our captain that it was not practicable at this season of the year, on account of the many shoals and other obstructions, I therefore embarked at Butteville, a small village most pleasantly situated upon the east bank of the Willamette. This point is in the district known as the French Settlement. The most beautiful prairie lands make up within a few hundred yards of the landing, at an elevation of some twenty feet above high water mark. The village is laid out upon the first bench or bottom, which is about ten feet above the highest water. I visited some half dozen different prairies in the neighborhood of this place, all of which run parallel with each other, extend north to south, and intersect the Grand Prairie eight or ten miles from the river. Their average width is about three fourths of a mile. These prairies are divided by beautiful forests of fir and oak, some half a mile in width, in the center of the valley to be found in clumps of pure white pine, which rise in springs near the Grand Prairie.—The French prairies are bounded by the Willamette, by the Columbia, and by the Pullin River, containing a tract of some 15 by 20 miles, and is without doubt the most convenient agricultural portion of the Territory I have as yet seen, of any considerable extent, and for the growing of wheat and other small grains, this section may truly be called the Garden of Oregon. I was informed that these settlements were commenced 15 or 20 years since, by Canadians, who having retired from the service of the Hudson Bay Company, made farms upon these beautiful plains, though many of the pioneer settlers have disposed of their claims within the past five or six years, and the country is at present about equally divided between the trapper and the cultivator.

The merchandise destined for Salem is landed at Butteville, and is conveyed by land a distance of 25 miles over a level prairie country.

The latter mentioned place possesses the advantages of a fine natural harbor, an extensive and fertile agricultural territory in her immediate vicinity, and a country as there shall be added to her many natural advantages, a little soil. A young enterprise, her march must be onward and upward. The time is not far in the future, when Butteville will become a city, and take her position as one of the most important commercial points upon the upper Willamette. Lake La Bish is the dividing line between the French prairie and the Salem country, and drains a portion of both. It flows into the Willamette on the west, and Pullin river on the east. So soon as I complete my tour, I will give you an account of Howell's Prairie, and the southern portion of Marion county.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,
A. EMBERT.

The accident, mentioned to have occurred in Linn City a few weeks since, occurred in the adjoining city, Multnomah. Will this satisfy the editor of the Oregonian? He is getting so sarcastic of late that he fights all along the river from Portland up. The next thing we expect is to see him leaping the falls. If he fights as well down stream, St. Helens, Astoria and Pacific City, will not be a circumstance to him?—his pet will absorb every interest in the Territory.

The river has risen some 6 or 8 inches in the past week. Rain has fallen almost daily and nightly for a like period. This will be unwelcome news to Dry-Dryer, who would be selfish enough to dry up the river above him, if the assumed head of navigation would not be effected by it.

We have frequently heard it said that corn cannot be raised in Oregon. Mr. Richardson has dispelled the illusion, by bringing to our office a stalk raised at Green Point, measuring twelve feet in length and containing two large ears.

RICKRAL, July 16, 1851.

Sir—What is the name of a beautiful little rippling stream which rises in the Coast mountains and runs north east, through the center of Polk county, and empties into the Willamette river between Cincinnati and Salem? Has it ever been named by any exploring officer of the United States or of France; or has the Legislative Assembly, or the Congress of the United States ever given it a name? The Spectator and some of its correspondents and Judge J. Quinn Thornton in his journal call it La Creole, which sounds like it was first discovered and named by a native of France. The Statesman tells it the Rickral and the people who reside upon it (except Mr. Shaw) and in the vicinity, all spell and call it Rickral, Rickral, or Rick-ral. The latter is the most usual way of spelling and pronouncing it in this section of the country. It has never been named by any public functionary the public journals ought to call it by the same name that the people do who reside upon it, for but few know what river you mean when you call it the La Creole. If it has ever been named by any public functionary the people ought to know it, and then they ought to call it by its proper name. If you are unacquainted with the early history of the country, perhaps some of your correspondents, or some of the old settlers of the country, will be kind enough to enlighten the public on the subject.

The stream is undoubtedly of importance enough to have a name, as it drains and waters some of the richest valleys in Oregon.

A. NEW COMER.

For the Spectator.
Ma. Forrester.

I noticed an article in the last number of the Statesman, over the signature of "Ma. Forrester," which had, I thought, the signature I have seen since I saw the Editor himself.

I am inclined to think that the Astoria man, the Multnomah man, and the dough-headed Editor of the Statesman, are one and the same man. He would have strange beliefs that Hullwaggy is considerable of a player, and able to pay for a respectable newspaper—but that won't do.

Practical, Mr. Schindler, there is a large majority of the citizens of our country who understand the end and aim of the reported young man.

Boston Chronicler.—It appears from an official statement just published that during the last six months there were 2,341 criminals committed to the State street jail, Boston. The statistics of some of the most notorious criminals are rather terrible. One of our countrymen, the Bostonian, called there were eleven convicts in the street, five for the purpose of swindling, and eleven for the purpose of swindling. Some of our criminals are a right bad set, none of them, which is rather a reasonable thing, in addition to the swindling crimes, it appears that there were three hundred and twenty-five more committed in the Boston jail during the same period. In some many where poverty is rare, perhaps it has a wholesome effect to make it punishable as a crime. The thirteen street swindlers were, no doubt, strangers, it was not unusual that any Bostonian would give up such a profession as swindling in the street.—Hullwaggy's Republic.

This number completes the fifth volume of the Spectator. We have purchased the establishment entire, and will continue the paper as usual. We will be pleased to receive the old subscribers with the paper, and as many new ones as we can get. The Spectator has rendered valuable services to the country in times past. It was the pioneer paper, and proclaimed the news in the world when it had not more than half a chance. We have recently made such additions to the establishment as will enable us to print neatly all kinds of blanks, cards &c.

D. J. SCHNEBLI,
Editor and Proprietor.

We, by accident, got hold of a copy of Saturday's Oregonian on Monday afternoon. It gives no explanation about the delay.

Married:
On the 2d of August at Lebanon, Marion county, O. T. by the Rev. A. Walter, Mr. Geo. W. Hays to Miss Elizabeth N. Smith, of Lebanon.
On Thursday, 26th inst. by Henry Sewell, J. P. Mr. John Kussner, of Lafayette, to Miss Jane, daughter of Thos. Carter, Esq. of Portland.

On the 27th inst., by Elder G. O. Burnett, Mr. Ben. S. Bacon, to Miss Mary Ann, daughter of Judge Comgys, of Yamhill county.

Died.
At the Oregon House, on Sunday last, Benjamin Fouts, aged about 40 years. Mr. Fouts arrived here some four or five weeks since. He was a resident of Des Moines county, Iowa, where he has a wife and four children residing. A disease of the kidney was pronounced by the physician, to be the cause of his death. He was taken very badly at the Soda Springs, from which place he was hauled in a wagon, in a manner peculiar, to this city.