

Oregon Spectator.

OREGON CITY:

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1851.

J. S. Thompson, Editor.

Read to be Remembered.
That the Spectator gives more reading matter than any other paper in the Territory.

☞ A friend says "the printer ought to be paid if the money should have to be taken to do it." Now, we shall not encourage any person to commit larceny to pay us, but those who owe us would greatly oblige us by "forking over" the needed moneys. It helps our spirits as much as our pockets when we are enabled to pay our bills upon anything and time to the future ahead. In order to pay others we must ask those indebted to us to place us in a situation that will make us independent of the annoyances of a debtor. We ask not for sympathy, but assistance in all we crave. Those who make no calculation about paying would do us a favor to report themselves at once.

☞ It is our wish to portray facts respecting improvements, no matter where located. The first was communicated to us a few days ago that a large flouring mill is in course of erection at Milwaukie and is now far advanced to completion. We had with pleasure such improvements and make them known at any time when informed of them. This is not all that is being done there; a brick trade has been carried on in the lumber business—a large amount has been shipped for the California market, and the mills of that place are actively engaged in making more. This speaks well for the trade on our river, and is only an evidence of what enterprise will do when properly directed. There are few places in Oregon that has grown more rapidly than Milwaukie in the last 18 months.

☞ A new grist mill, we were informed a few days since, by Mr. Thompson, is to be owned by the Island Milling Company, just above the present mill. Arrangements are now being made to carry into effect the project. It is the purpose of the company to make it large enough to contain four or five runs of stone. We have heard it said, too, that Dr. McLaughlin contemplates building an additional mill just below his present mills. We rejoice to see such a manifestation of public spirit. It is the improvement of our immense water power that is to give consequence to our city. It was turning to account similar advantages that gave Rochester, N. Y., her proud position, and rendered her prosperous. How long will it be before we have a Rochester here at the falls? Not long we trow.

☞ Some mischievous boys amused themselves one night last week by changing a number of signs about town, mercantile, professional, &c. Even the large sign of Mr. Brown was fobbed, no doubt to the time of night. It was early returned to its place the next morning and is none the worse for wear. By these changes lawyers and doctors were advertised at new locations. The worst of the story is yet to be told. Some of our most respectable citizens, it is said, have been implicated as participants in this new work of night-arranging.

☞ A. A. Skinner, Indian Agent, left for the Rogue river country on Tuesday last, the place assigned him for future operations. He has gone prepared to make the Indians present; which when distributed, will so doubt have a tendency to render permanent the good feeling that now prevails.

The portion of country assigned E. A. Strubling, is north of the Columbia river.

☞ Within the past week a large number of persons have started for the mines. Some of this year's immigrants have joined them and are about to sow their first "wild oats." It is generally believed that the miners will yield pretty fair wages this winter. In the dry diggings (Chasta) nothing has been done since the water gave out last spring.

☞ We invite attention to our correspondence from the mines. It comes from a reliable source. Persons meditating a journey to the mines may glean information from it that will be of advantage to them.

☞ The Queen Bird sets out to-day for San Francisco. She has on board 85,000 feet of lumber and about 1,000 hogs.

Oregon City.—What should be done.

The streets of our city during the past month have evidenced a gradual increase of business, and our merchants in that time have been driving a very fair trade. True, there has been no busting, outdoor excitement to keep up appearances or to create the impression that the whole trade of the country is being done here. No such counterfeit pretensions are put forth—but a smooth and healthy state of trade exists, and merchants are well satisfied with what is being done, and the probable prospects ahead. Goods, too, are sold very reasonably indeed. At no place in the Territory are goods wholesale upon more liberal terms. The upper country is drawing, at this time, largely on this city for supplies of all kinds. The spirit of determination manifested here now is such that the people above are being convinced that they "may go farther and fare worse," and to save themselves expense, delay and damage, they make a "virtue of necessity" by stopping here to lay in their goods.

The communication with the country above is such now, that the business of purchasing and shipping can be done in a few days, that previously occupied, we might almost say months, with 3.0 per cent. less risk, and without disappointment of any kind. This, to the business man, is all important, as it enables him to make quick returns of his invested capital, and in a given time turn it round three or four times, to where, in times past, he could do it but once. And arrangements are now going on and being perfected that will give the merchant of the interior the privilege of exchanging wheat and other products, at cash prices, for goods. Thus the farmer, who cannot make it pay to transport his produce, consisting of a few hundred bushels, to a distant market, is privileged to dispose of it at home, and is saved the risk of transportation, &c., and can obtain just as much for it as if he performed the shipping himself.

Although there is a very fair business being done here, yet there is a strong necessity for the establishment of three or four wholesale houses. This would insure to our city the securing of a trade already large, but which in a few years will be immense. The question is often asked here, can we stop the business here that now goes elsewhere, when the current is set and a stream constantly flowing by us? The question is easily answered: Hold out the inducements—get on hand the provokatives—get the bait and it is just as easily to calculate the consequence as it is to tell how much 3 added to 3 makes. There is not a better location in the Territory for the establishment of several large wholesale houses than Oregon city. We defy any person to gainsay it. It is a fact not to be controverted. One great drawback now is, that persons buying here cannot always obtain the variety, on account of the limited number of stores, usually needed for a retail business in the country.

The day is not far distant when the trade of the Willamette and Columbia rivers will all be done by steamboats. The heavy shipping must necessarily stop at some place below Tongue Point. Vessels of light draft, it is true, are passing up and down over that bar now, and because of no large ships being in the trade at this time, a place of necessity for discharging temporarily exists higher up. When business becomes systematized, and it requires it to be done expeditiously and to the minute, a cruise of three or four weeks up our rivers will be done away with, and the sun of prosperity will find a new home. Where is the point? eh.

☞ The Indian Agent, Mr. Wampool, who has been for some time on the Ulla river, returned to this city eight or ten days ago, under rather unfavorable circumstances, caused by violations of instructions, which were clear, express and not to be misunderstood. This rendered his recall necessary, he having disgraced his position and proved himself unworthy the trust confided in him by the government. He was enjoined not to trade with the Indians in any way or manner, but was empowered to grant licenses to others to trade with the Indians. He accordingly granted licenses in several instances, though not without observing the same with certain conditions, that of taking into partnership a son in one instance, and in another a nephew, in order that he might remotely, if not directly, derive some pecuniary advantage therefrom; not satisfied with this, he drove quite a brisk trade on his "own hook" with the Indians in person. He has been relieved of his charge and now stands suspended. It is to be regretted that such an appointment should have been made. This, however, is the only instance of inefficiency that has occurred in Oregon, of all the appointments that have been made.

Oregon Flour.—A large number of

packers received their supplies of flour at the Island mills last week, and have started with it for the mines. We are glad to see that the reputation of Oregon flour is brightening. It got very much below par last spring and summer, and so notorious had it become that even Chill flour had entirely superseded it, a fact that we are almost ashamed to acknowledge; when we consider that the wheat grown in Oregon has scarce an equal in the world and that the water power all over Oregon almost, cannot be surpassed. Why is it that the flour manufactured in Oregon, should have sunk so low, despite all the favorable circumstances herein mentioned? We hope those engaged in the business will see to it that such a state of things be changed, the sooner the better. It is a fixed fact that persons will trade where they can be the best accommodated, and if the people of Oregon have no ambition to excel in this business, their doom is sealed, and they might as well prepare for it, by "shutting up shop." The Island mills have taken the lead, who'll follow?

☞ We have conversed with several persons direct from the mines, they all concur in their statements relative to the feeling entertained for the whites throughout the entire Rogue river country, except the small roving and marauding bands of Grave Creek Indians, with whom no treaty has ever been made, and why are no better than the bears and wolves that roam over the forests. They are a small band consisting of about 40 head. Persons are passing and repassing daily without interruption, and are not compelled to stand guard, save in the neighborhood of the Grave Creeks. This is a very desirable state of things and contrasts very favorably with that that prevailed previous to the making of the treaty. The only dissatisfaction that exists is said to be the failure as to the time on the part of the government to make good the stipulations of the treaty. This has, in a great measure, exhausted their patience. We have no fears but that Mr. Skinner, now on his way thither, will soon render full satisfaction on this score.

The remainder of the female portion and the son of Gen. Gaines family started out in the last mail steamer for the States; they were accompanied by his Excellency as far as San Francisco, whose return is expected by the incoming mail steamer. The Governor's afflictions have been many since his appointment to office. On his way to this country, he lost, at Rio Janeiro, by the yellow fever, two daughters nearly grown; and since he has been here his wife, a most estimable lady, under the most trying circumstances. He is truly to be pitied. And notwithstanding all these afflictions, enough God knows for any one man, we have an unscrupulous editor in our midst who would fain multiply these afflictions, by gross misrepresentations and the most foul abuse, un-called for, malignant, and unjust.

☞ Mr. John S. Zieber, of Peoria, Ill., arrived here some eight or ten days since with his family, who are all in good spirits, and is residing for the present in Linn City. They encountered many severe trials on the road, having had all their team stole from them some 500 miles from this place, where it was impossible for them to make any arrangement for the conveyance of themselves and goods, other than what could be made with their company. We are happy to learn that he was fortunate enough to be cared for by some of the company until he reached the Dalles. His son went out beyond the Dalles to meet them. From the Dalles they came by water to this place.

Mr. Zieber was one of the pioneer printers in middle Illinois; he established the first Democratic paper, "The Peoria Democratic Press," in Peoria County, Ill., if we mistake not, in the winter of 1836. Mr. Zieber has held a seat in the Legislature of Illinois, and is a high minded honorable Democrat. We welcome him to Oregon.

A Challenge to Farmers.
The undersigned challenges any person who dares to take it up, in the sum \$300 that he can raise from one peck of oats, 300 bushels. This is not said boasting; but the sum is deemed sufficient to justify the experiment, and any person desiring to accept the challenge will please address Thomas Hubbard, Lafayette, Yamhill County, Oregon.

☞ Read C. Friendenberg & Co's advertisement in another column. They have quite an assortment, and are going to sell to suit the times.

☞ The Washington County Court is now in session.

Correspondence.

For the Spectator.
ROGUE SPECTATOR.—SIR:—For some time past I have sought an opportunity to redeem my engagement of writing to you, and giving as correct an account of these "diggings" as possible, for the benefit of your readers. My apology for this long delay is simply that, on my arrival here, I was necessarily much longer in getting located and fixed for digging than I expected to be. An account of a miner's life, &c., is unnecessary in this letter, for the reason that, but a very few of the Oregonians are uninitiated upon that point, not only by reading, but they have personal experience of the matter, and those who have not, will very readily obtain oral descriptions of it, which cannot but be much more satisfactory and vivid. The mining on this river at present, consists almost entirely of working the bed of the river, a few, however, are still working in the banks.

Before any of the dams were ready to dig out gold, great hopes were entertained, and nearly all were confident of a liberal and even a large return for their time, expense, and labor. These dams are worked by companies of miners, the company varying in number from 8 to 20 or more. A system of speculation was tolerated by the miners here, which, I understand, was not suffered to exist in Lower California, at least, when those mines were as new as these.

It seems that those who were somewhat in advance of the rush for this river, immediately, each for himself, laid claim to a sufficient portion of the bed of the river for, from 10 to 20 men to work out in one season, and then, when the working miners came, sold to them shares, the number being according to the length of their claim, asking from \$100 to \$400 per share, and thereby in many cases making moderate fortunes without a stroke, by fleeing from the hard working miner his honestly obtained and hard earned gold. A more wholesale imposition upon the industrious miner I never heard of, and am only surprised that such a system of robbery should have been for a moment tolerated or gained the foothold it has. In a majority of cases, however, the condition of the payment was made to be that the purchase money was first to be taken out of the claim, and drawn by the shareholder from the treasurer as the income due his share. The fact of very many of these dams falling in whole, or in part, has very much disappointed the undersigned and in many cases dishonest speculation, and nipped his golden dreams in the bud. I am of the opinion, however, that Scott's River—that portion of it which is being worked—is as rich as perhaps any river that up to this time has been worked in California. I may be wrong in this, as my knowledge of Lower California has been obtained from others altogether. Some of the dams are very rich—some pay from \$20 to \$40 per day, and others from 1-2 to an ounce per day, while very many will hardly pay for working, and a good many already abandoned. The two last, perhaps, embracing the larger number. The old Goodwin, at present called the Lafayette Daming company, took out the other day something over \$8000, not using the entire day either—as I understand they were moving timbers or something else a small portion of the day. These latter things, however, are always necessary to carrying on, the works, and must be done. They by no means average the above amount; but the claim is very rich, and those engaged, (22 in number,) will make a good "raise." If it had not been for a law-suit with certain other claimants, which cost the company some \$3000 or \$4000, they would have done something better still. All the dams are troubled very much with leakage water, to a greater or less extent, according to the depth of their diggings, which causes much expense and labor to remove. Pumps of different kinds are in use with various success. The Lafayette Company are using a pump propelled by water, the pump consisting of a tight box of the required length, and about 13 inches by 6, one end submerged in the water about 1 or 2 feet. Strong canvas is then prepared of equal width with the box or pump, and the two ends sewed together, two rollers of same width as the pump are fastened one at each end, upon which the canvass rolls. Upon this cloth, at a distance of 16 or 18 inches apart, are fastened blocks, nicely fitting the pump, and when put in motion, the blocks finding water in the lower end of the pump, force it up until it empties itself out of the top, and then runs off in any manner the person desires.

This Company have two of these pumps, and they are answering a very good purpose. The best and by far the fastest pump I have seen on the river, is worked by water power on the "Gipsy" claim,

about two miles below Scott's bar. It is a screw pump, and probably the principle is familiar to most of your readers. This pump was constructed at great expense, (some \$1200,) by Frederick Derrick, the enterprising foreman of the Company, (at the mutual expense of the Company however.) Mr. Derrick is from Rockford, Ill., and some time since in the employ of the N. American Fur Company, and while in their employ, builder of Fort La Ramie. For his great ingenuity and perseverance in the construction of this pump (which throws the enormous amount of a barrel of water per second,) and that too without any of the conveniences of lumber, ready sawed, and with a very poor and scanty supply of tools he receives, and is deserving of the highest praise and commendation.

The gold taken from this river is of the very best quality, and mostly coarse. A short time since, there was taken from the Little Company, the first above the Lafayette, and opposite the town, a solid piece of gold weighing 10 lbs. ayerdupois. I would here caution the reader, unacquainted with mining, against forming too favorable an opinion of them, and bear in mind that while one man is so fortunate as to find diggings of this description, perhaps 500 may be with some difficulty making even moderate wages, and perhaps half this number hardly paying expenses.

It is at present rather a dull time here; those miners whose dams have failed, have mostly left for the mountains to hunt winter diggings. It is very confidently expected that rich mines will be found in some of the gulches leading into Scott's River. I am myself inclined to that opinion, but do not think they will be found until water comes, at least not to any extent. At this time there is probably three or four hundred miners in the mountains about this river, and the Chasta diggings. It is rumored that some small parties have found very rich mines somewhere about here, but no one knows where, and I do not credit the tale. It is rather amusing to see the pertinacity with which some entertain this belief. If they see a party of half a dozen or so, travelling by themselves, with any appearance of having supplies with them, some who are on the watch will immediately set out and follow them, and the party followed all the time upon the same errand as themselves. I verily believe I could take my horse, and start out at evening, with a little manifestation of a desire to be alone, and get a hundred men to dog my steps, up and over some of the most awful mountains ever traversed by a mule!

The miners about Chasta are doing very little at present; but the city is being built up very fast, and is already quite a town. Confident anticipations are entertained of doing well about there when the rains set in—I think they will. Supplies are plenty in this country and cheap; flour about 30c per lb; beef 25 to 30c lb; on this river, and at Chasta 20 to 25c per lb; potatoes 50c per bushel; onions 60c; clothing plenty and reasonable.

The Indians appear to be friendly at present, and we all hope that no difficulty will occur. If you are acquainted with an upholsterer in Oregon who is desirous of going into the manufacture of mattresses, just send him out here, he will find plenty of hair, some curled and some not—he can make his fortune!

The Oregonians must not depend too much upon receipts of gold dust from these mines to make trade lively this winter, for the larger portion of it goes and will go to California. I occasionally see a Spectator here, and would like to see them much oftener. We are compelled to lead a kind hermit's life here, which to those accustomed to living in old settled countries where news is plenty, and received by lightning, is at first rather dull and tedious—but as I have made my bed, so will I lie on it.

Yours,
PICK AXE.

For the Spectator
LANE COUNTY, Oct. 3, 1851.

Ma. Euphrates:
Dear Sir:—I wrote to a friend at your place some time since, enquiring of him in regard to the Peoria and Stark County emigrants, as to their number, their names &c. I feel anxious to learn who they are, and where they think of settling, as I must be acquainted with the most of them. I was from there about 18 months since, and when there, I knew personally, nearly every family in both counties. I would be pleased to have an opportunity of giving my old friends a few hints before they locate. I flatter myself that I could be of some advantage to them in finding good locations in this country.

How is friend Moore getting along? I see that editor of the dirty sheet in Oregon City, (Bush,) has been endeavoring

to vilify him because he dared to do his duty as a worthy public officer should; if we had a few more such officers in the country it would be to the advantage of the country at large—a credit to the government, and an honor to themselves. I don't wish to be understood as reflecting upon the present officers of the general government, though I differ from the most of them in politics, I see no cause for finding fault with them, but we have been cursed with some of the most reckless scamps that ever disgraced any country. We once had a Judge who I am told, held a few sham courts in the territory—speculated by buying disputed titles to land, was in the country six or seven months, and then was permitted by our Hon. Delegate who was aware of all the facts, to draw pay for two and one-half years as Judge of the first Judicial district in Oregon. If Bush feels it his duty to watch the interest of the country with such especial care, he must commence where the abuse of the territory and general government commenced. Why does he not enquire by what kind of management it was that Aspinwall & Co. got the carrying of the mails from Astoria to Oregon City, at the enormous rate of \$10,000 per year. Let him enquire the reason why some of our worthy citizens that had been at an enormous expense in building steam boats for the benefit of the country, were not allowed the privilege of putting in a bid in competition to that overgrown company that had no interest in the territory. Why was not the route offered in this country? These are questions and matters that are of interest to the whole people of the territory, and there are plenty more of equally grave importance that the public will trouble him with ere long. Will you enquire of him what has become of the laws that was entrusted to him to have printed. That was a wise provision to have them sent to the States to be printed on account of economy, and at the same time find fault and libel a P. M. for not allowing an individual to swindle the government out of thousands of dollars. "Oh! consistency, thou art a jewel." Would it not be well, friend Schuchly, on the score of economy to have our laws made in some of the eastern States, where the members are not allowed to set but a few weeks, and where the members are only allowed six shillings per diem? It would be equally as reasonable as to send the laws there to be printed, and deprive the citizens of the territory of the advantage of the a appropriation made for the benefit of our country. It is rumored up here that Bush's is now trying to shield himself from the libel suit by swearing that a lady was his only witness in the case. Does this look like facts of public notoriety? See his paper of 23rd May, last—he says that Moore has been engaged in lawsuits ever since he has been in the territory. Now I am credibly informed that Mr. James M. Moore has never had a lawsuit with any person since he has been in the territory. That is more than Bush's friends can say for him after a residence of four years in the territory, unless he pays his board bill more prompt than he did to Esq. Hood; (by the way he has he paid it yet?) and unless he turns better than to libel honest men. He may think to screen himself from lawsuits on account of his owning anything that a creditor could get hold of; he sometimes asserts that he owns the Statesman office—Frank McKlinch says he owns it, but it is well known that neither of them own a copper in it.

Tell friend Moore to stand his ground, and an honest community will sustain him, and I doubt not the department at Washington will do the same when acquainted with the whole facts of the case. I will be down in the course of a few weeks to your place, where I hope to see you and also a number of my old Peoria and Stark friends. If you have a full file of the Spectator please send it to me. The Spectator is beginning to be eagerly enquired after, you might get quite a number of subscribers up here. Our country is settling up very fast, we would be pleased to have a visit from you shortly.

Respectfully,
A. P. C.

ROBERT.—On Thursday night last, some unknown scoundrel broke open a box, belonging to C. Friendenberg & Co., in front of their store, and abstracted eleven pairs of blankets, some of which were yellow and worked with green around the edges. This should be a warning to our business men not to leave their goods outside. The perpetrator has not been detected, and is still running at large; he is, no doubt, seeking another opportunity to pilfer.

☞ A. K. Post has an extensive assortment of everything in his line, and advertises to sell cheaper than has ever been sold. We will vouch for the statement, we will.