

# Oregon Spectator.

OREGON CITY:

Tuesday, January 13, 1852.

C. P. Culver, Associate Editor.

## Extreme on the Location Question.

It is customary in all theatrical performances, in order to keep up the interest of the audience in the "play," to frequently change the order of the drama, and after entertaining the spectators with the thrilling incidents of a tragic scene, or engaging their attention by some melodramatic performance, to rouse the audience, and amuse them by the introduction of some laughing comedy or ridiculous farce. Human nature, being considered about the same in nearly all circumstances, we find politicians, or those who wish to make an impression upon public opinion on whatever subject, frequently resort to this same course to effect their object, and by often changing their order of attack, or argument, manage to keep up an interest in the game, which otherwise might dwindle, much to the discomfort of the operator.

The course of those, who, by their inflammatory writings and doings, serve to increase the excited state of public opinion upon this location question, is somewhat similar to the above description of the management of a theatrical performance. The changing of the mode of attack upon our public officers, from first questioning the soundness of the principles by which they were governed, then charging them with bad motives, interest, &c., followed by a wholesale condemnation and charges of a purely personal nature, certainly remind one very forcibly of the frequent change from the sublime to the ridiculous that occurs upon the stage. And if we attribute the same motives to those engaged in feeding the public mind here, with food to create more excitement, as we know governs the theatrical manager, it should certainly in our opinion, be considered as prompted less by a disposition to implicate any concerned, than forced upon us by the plain indications and tendencies of their writings and doings.

Inflammatory productions and bare assertions, carry with them but little weight, and are entitled to less confidence. Personal charges are foreign to the subject. Let every man acknowledge the right of his neighbor to his own opinion, and in the discussion of this question, if discussion is considered necessary, let the principle involved be the subject of it. Slow by reason and argument, the position taken by an adversary upon this question to be untenable, and then a victory is truly gained. The public will not be convinced by assertions, neither will those who think and act differently be dissuaded by abuse. We find much difference of opinion upon this subject. Some think that the Seat of Government is permanently and legally located at Salem, while others think the law invalid. Others are confident that all difficulty might have been avoided by the Legislature meeting in the first instance at Oregon City, and there passing a law locating the Seat of Government where they please; and others, being equally confident of the validity of the Act, insist that any law made by the Legislature at this place would have been altogether a nullity, inasmuch as it was not the Seat of Government. Difficulty in locating the public buildings of a Territory is nothing new, or uncommon, and local feeling and prejudice connected with its location is perhaps unavoidable. But the course adopted by some among us to quiet this feeling, and to have the matter settled with as little trouble and confusion as possible, is indeed a novel one for the accomplishment of these objects. A similar uncertainty with regard to the location of the capital exists in California, yet judging by the tone of the press when speaking of it, it is not the cause of personal and local divisions, as with us; and while the facts concerning it are given, and the uncertainty connected with it regretted; charges of corruption in office, &c., even if entertained, do not appear. If any of our public servants have been guilty of malfeasance in the discharge of their duties, a very simple and effectual remedy is within our reach. If a Judge, we have only to prove his corruption to have him impeached. If a Legislator, his term of office will soon expire at farthest, and a new election will correct the evil. If causes and reasons sufficient for the removal of any of our officers exist, let immediate steps be taken to have it

done. Words of bitterness and spiteful denunciation will accomplish nothing.— Other portions of our country though not entirely free from similar troubles do not allow them to interfere with the interests of their country. Many things are found in their midst they could wish otherwise, and a sister town or more distant locality, may receive benefits from different sources which they desired, yet it is not permitted to disturb the tranquillity of an entire country, or allowed to interfere with the harmonious exertion and efforts of all to forward the common good. We would recommend more moderation connected with the treatment of this subject, and a greater exhibition of willingness to be guided by reason, rather than impulse. A few enterprising immigrants from the eastern states, located in any of our towns, would be of more benefit to it than a dozen capitals; but they will not come as long as, according to accounts, a condition of things bordering upon anarchy exists, and little safety to life and property can be expected. All these representations are doing a direct injustice to ourselves, by causing reports to go abroad greatly exaggerated, which will have an unavoidable tendency to prevent many people from seeking a home among us, at least for the present.

The condition of things here relative to this question, have already been magnified greatly beyond what a simple, plain statement of the facts will warrant; and we can see no reason why the feeling natural to questions of this character, should be increased, and repeatedly rekindled by exaggerated accounts of it.

**DISAPPEARED AND SUPPOSED TO BE DROWNED.**—GEORGE KELLER, a young man about twenty-five years of age, from Peoria, Ill., who arrived in this country last fall, is supposed to have been drowned in the Tualatin River, on Wednesday last, at or near Moore's mill. The last that was seen of him was late in the afternoon of that day, on the opposite side of the river from the mill, near the ferry landing. A short time afterwards the boat was discovered rapidly descending the stream with the current, and no person in it. He has not been heard of since, and his friends think he must by some accident have fallen overboard, and immediately drowned. He was a young man of excellent character, and his loss is a severe affliction to the numerous friends he had made here, during the short period of his sojourn among us.

**RAFT OVER THE FALLS AND NARROW ESCAPE OF THREE MEN.**—A small raft containing about ten thousand feet of choice lumber, from the saw mill of J. M. Moore, Esq., on the Tualatin river, came over the falls a few days since, and a portion of the lumber was lost. When near the mouth of the Tualatin, those engaged in bringing the raft down that stream, narrowly escaped losing their lives, by the raft striking on a point of rocks, and instantly breaking up, leaving barely time for these upon it to jump ashore. A small boat attached to the raft, together with the crews of the men, a watch, belonging to some of them, and forty-five dollars in money in the coat pocket of another, were lost along with the lumber.

**THE NEW BRIDGE OVER THE YAM HILL RIVER AT LAFAYETTE,** has been carried away, and almost entirely destroyed, by the recent high water. One of the abutments is entirely gone, and the other moved from its position, so as to be ruined.— We hear of the loss of this structure with much regret, and the citizens of Yam Hill Co. as well as the public generally, will suffer much inconvenience on account of it. We are informed that some \$1,500 will be lost to the company engaged in its construction. Much damage has also been sustained by the farmers along the banks of this river, by the loss of their fences, and injury to crops. The river rose about 60 feet above low water mark!

**THE OREGON MONTHLY MAGAZINE.**—The first number of this periodical has just been laid upon our table. Its general appearance compares favorably with magazines published in the Atlantic states. It contains 32 pages of well selected reading matter, a large portion of which is written by the editor, S. J. McCHAMBER, Esq., upon subjects of interest, and displays both ability and research. This, the pioneer magazine of the Pacific, we hope our citizens will take pride in supporting liberally.

We received a communication last week without date, place or signature, which we cannot publish. The matter is not particularly exceptional; but we admit an article without knowing the author's name.

Read the letter in today's paper from our correspondent in Linn County.

## The Umpqua

We take the following extract from a letter received by us from a subscriber; and omitting that portion which is on business, we take the liberty of publishing it, though not intended for publication:

"Two years ago last July, there was but one family in the Umpqua. They now believe they are entitled to three counties. One year ago last August the first vessel entered the Umpqua harbor; there has been since that time three steamers and more than twenty sailing vessels visited it; and yet, all the goods brought in have not amounted to a tithe of the demand. The heaviest cargoes of provisions are scarce a week in the river before they are on the backs of pack animals on their way to the mines—from which you may infer that nothing is wanting to secure to Umpqua a most prosperous commerce, and an almost complete monopoly of the northern mines but the judicious direction of the proper capital. There was an appropriation made last Congress for the erection of a Light House, Buoys and Fog Signals, at the mouth of the Umpqua."

## Wisconsin Election.

From the tables of the returns in this State, found in the Milwaukee Sentinel of Nov. 14th, we condense the following report of the result. Farwell, (whig) for Governor, ahead so far as heard from 1,741 votes. For members of the Assembly 36 whigs are elected, to 15 democrats and 5 free soil. Of the Senators just elected 5 are whigs, 3 democrats and 1 free soil. Those who held over from last year are 1 whig and 9 democrats—making the present Senate stand, 6 whigs, 1 free soil, and 12 democrats. The whigs have elected a majority of the members chosen at this election. Speaking of the result the Sentinel says:

"We think the actual result cannot vary far from the above table. If such be the result, there will be a whig majority on joint ballot, over all others. At all events, we think it certain that there will be a majority of Whigs and Free Soilers over the old line 'democracy'."

**A GOOD TAKE OFF.**—The Marysville Herald has a correspondent who, writing from "Quartz Hill Hollow," thus hits of the prevailing humbug of letter writers from the mines. After stating that he has struck and followed an extraordinary quartz lead for ten miles, he gives the following sample of test:

"We found the quartz to be very friable, and even with our fingers could separate the gold from the rock. With a common sheath-knife we succeeded, after some little labor, in getting out a block weighing six pounds two ounces, and with only an ordinary coffee mill to grind it, obtained six pounds four ounces of gold!"

An extraordinary coffee mill that! But hear him further:

"The contract has been given to responsible parties for putting up a twenty-four horse power bellows, and it is calculated sufficient wind may be brought to bear, not only effectually to separate the gold, but to blow the whole affair to the devil, if necessary.—Cal. Cour."

Yes, give it wind! In the "getting up" of these big tales about "great discoveries of gold," wind is always the principal instrument. Keep the "bellows" in operation.

**LAKE SUPERIOR COPPER REGION.**—The Lake Superior Journal says, that every acre of cleared land in the copper region around Sault Ste. Marie will pay, the first year, the entire expense of clearing and cultivation. Miners as a class know little or nothing about farming, and their wants have to be supplied by farmers some where. At present these supplies come from Cleveland and Detroit, at a great expense.

Col. EOS SPOON, aged 76 years, who built the first house in Rochester, in 1810, and whose son was the first child born in that town, died on the 23d Oct.

G. W. Wood, editor of the Port Wayne Times, has been appointed Register of the Land Office in that place.

The troops ordered to reinforce the American army on the Rio Grande, all left New Orleans on the 8d Nov.

The Mails from the Atlantic States will leave this city on Saturday next, Jan. 17th. See advertisement steamer Willamette in another column.

We are under obligations to Newell & Co.'s Express for late papers from the States—and to J. Ferguson, Esq., for like favors.

Owing to the unexpected absence of one of our compositors, we were unable to get our paper out this week at the regular hour.

The Willamette is falling rapidly.

## Correspondence of the Spectator.

### Matters in Linn County—Its Resources, &c.

LINN COUNTY, O. T., Dec. '51.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—It is one of the happiest arrangements of our nature, that we are apt to suppose our own the best. Under the influence of this feeling your humble correspondent would ask the privilege of giving your readers an occasional sketch of that portion of Oregon which is to him clothed with the charms of home.

It would be very lame and commonplace to say that Linn County is a beautiful district of country. It would be necessary to suppose it as not a part of Oregon if it were not a beautiful country; for, it is one of the peculiar characteristics of our Territory, that it everywhere presents a richness and variety of natural scenery, "ever charming—ever new." Indeed, if a person is dissatisfied or displeased with the country, there would be a strong disposition to ascribe such dissatisfaction to blindness, stupidity, or something else as title flattering. No one however, is prepared to form a just conception of the whole country who has not seen it all; for every part has some element of beauty or interest peculiar to itself which will well pay for a visit.

By the way Messrs. Eds. have you ever been here to contemplate the enchantments of nature so profusely spread a broad over the verdant plains and majestic mountains. Wonder if you could be tempted away from that dusty pile of exchanges, and the music of that creaky machine at the other end of the room, to sniff the pure air of heaven, which drifts in balmy breezes over this favored land. We would advise however, that you now wait till February, when Flora almost literally smother the verdure of the prairies with the profusion of her charms.

It is somewhat difficult to draw the mind away from the poetry of the scene, but we have in this country much also that is substantial, and calculated to please the more cool and calculating, and one of the most substantial evidences of this is found in the fact that we have had a large accession to our population by the last immigration. This country has enjoyed a more than usually liberal share of the large accession to our population during the past season. From the number of free stakes set, and of the improvements in progress, we would not risk much in saying that the number of voting citizens has increased at least one-third—perhaps more, since the last election.—And what is still more encouraging, is that these new settlers are of the most steady, industrious and intelligent portion of western agriculturalists. These settlers, equipped with the fertile soil and luxuriant pasturage of this county, have given it their most enduring endorsement by becoming its permanent occupants.

But let none be deterred from seeking a home in this country by the thought that the land is all claimed. Far from it.—It is perhaps true that the first choice is all taken, but some of the most beautiful prairie lands, and not at inconvenient distances from timber, are yet un-occupied. There are some 800 square miles of arable land in this county, amply sufficient with proper culture to sustain a rural population of 10,000. And we shall be disappointed, and that greatly, if it is not in the end ascertained that within the present limits of Linn County there is a very much greater amount of good land than in any county in the Willamette valley.

For the first time since the settlement of the county, our citizens have been roused up with the puffing of the Steamer, as it plows its way up our beautiful river. Already things are beginning to assume a commercial tone. One of the first effects of this new impulse given to trade is a marked advance in the price of produce. Our prices current compare favorably with your city quotations. Unfortunately, however, for the steamboat enterprise, at present nearly all the surplus produce of this county is taken off to feed the Digger tribe at Shasta.

Speaking of commerce and produce, it may be interesting to refer to the productive resources of this county. And it is so eminently adapted to the production of the great staples—wheat, pork, beef, butter and cheese, that it would perhaps be more correct to say that it excels in all these, rather than in any one.

Having introduced our subject we waive other reflections to a more convenient season.

From the conflicting reports upon the subject in the papers from the States, we should think that the next whig candidate for President, would be either Fillmore, Scott, Webster, Clay, or some other whig.

The following letter from Robert Newell, Esq., of Champeong, we were requested by that gentleman to publish in our paper of last week, but we were unable to do so on account of the late hour of its reception. Without entering in any manner into the causes of the difference between Mr. Newell and the Editor of the Statesman, or other personal matters between different gentlemen, we very cheerfully give Mr. Newell's letter a place in our columns.

To the Editor of the Oregon Statesman.

Sir:—As you have taken the trouble to publish the proceedings of a meeting held at this place on the 25 Dec., and with it your comments, will you, with the same spirit of public kindness, give a copy of this letter room in your paper of this week?

Owing to the non arrival of your paper this week to this place, I have not seen your paper until this evening late, which prevents my dwelling upon your many grave charges at length. I will only make a few statements, which I will undertake to prove at any time you desire it. In the first place, no part of those resolutions you speak of at the Champeong meeting on the 25th Dec., was sent from Oregon City, or from any Federal Officer, whatever, but was drawn up by a Farmer of this vicinity. They came into the meeting written in pencil, and was copied soon after the adjournment of the meeting—Secondly, no Federal Officer, to my knowledge, ever wrote said resolutions, we sent any word asking us to hold a meeting on that subject or any other. The resolutions published were selected from many others offered in the committee, as I was informed. I had no objection to the resolutions, thinking the spirit of them only a cooperation of all good citizens of the United States, who are bound to obey her laws, and whose duty it is to respect them, and cherish them, in even so humble a capacity. This is all the members of that meeting thought they were doing. I have no objection to you saying that we were brought up by the Federal Government. I for one am always ready to stand by our Union, and God forbid that my name should be enrolled with those who should cry out—Disunion!

You say that the commissioners hired me at five dollars per day for sixty months service I never performed. That assertion, Mr. Bush, is untrue as the test of your comments, and I can prove it—but to controvert you flat, in my opinion is only an inducement for you to hold forth from your paper volumes of severity not worthy the period at an enlightened or civilized community.

What you have said about the purchase of the property of the commissioners at Champeong when they were done deal with the Indians, is also untrue.

The truth, in my opinion, is, Mr. Bush, that you did not, nor do now believe that you have written about me in your paper of the 30th of December. I think you have done it to retaliate public opinion, and taken this unfair course to accomplish your designs. As to my politics, if you wished to be just, why did you not say, that I had been appointed Indian Sub-Agent by James K. Polk, President of the United States, and had been removed by the present administration? Why, if you wished to be fair, did you not inform the public that when Gov. Lane came here as Superintendent of Indian Affairs, that I was the only one that came, and went and assisted, in every way I could, as Sub-Indian Agent, to assist him in his official duty? He was a Government Officer, I thought to serve him was doing my duty, but, according to your doctrine, I should have disowned him; but that course I did not take, but supported him throughout—and at the last call I was up and doing, and at the close of the day our ballot-box gave in our precinct one against and 70 or over for Joe Lane.

Mr. Editor, you certainly must be a Mormon, and are trying to run the Officers of old Uncle Sam out of the country, as Brigham Young has done at the Salt Lake. This last assertion, I cannot prove—but we have heard the Mormons have spies in this country, and your course looks as Mormonish as any thing I ever saw. In place of trying to unite the people, you are trying to raise disturbance, and the more you see of it, the better you appear to be pleased. This unhappy state of our affairs in Oregon, you appear to glory in, and if they were ten times worse no doubt you would be happy; if our seat of government was located, and all moving along quietly and in good order, no doubt you would become dispirited and feel like a poor broken down Editor of the Statesman, who once injured his lungs in haranguing the people to turn out in town and country, to express themselves ready to raise up in

arms against the official officers of our country.

Now, Mr. Bush, in conclusion, let me here state, that as to the number of the officers who were put on the committee, or that those resolutions were furnished by any one from a distance, or any one that was not at the meeting, is a fabrication, and wholly untrue, and, as I said before, it can be proven. Can any thing make you feel worse than the above? are you not ashamed to be obliged to father such falsehoods? does not your conscience at times dictate to you a better course? what can a man do worse to himself than cause the public to look upon him as one who has no regard for what he says? and how can a man do better than tell the truth and practice it?—which I recommend you to do.

Your obedient servant,

ROBT. NEWELL.

From the California Courier.

Mr. George M. Lockwood, of Wisconsin, was instantly killed while walking on the pavement in front of Wells' building, by the fall of a brick from the top of the wall, on the morning of the 11th instant.

The question of the State Capital is being talked of, and the friends of Vallejo and San Jose seem alike sanguine. In the meantime, it is reported that, before the meeting of the Legislature, the State officers will go back to Vallejo. By way of inducement, the Vallejos have a grand hall and the San Joaquins a hunt, on Christmas.

A robbery of \$10,500 in gold dust was perpetrated in Marysville on the 8th inst.

The building of Messrs. Huxley, Bond & Hutton, on Bacon Point, fell into the water with a terrible crash on the night of the 11th instant. They were filled with valuable goods, and the loss is estimated at \$20,000.

Robberies are on the increase in this country, and there is no doubt but we are again being infested with a gang of desperadoes, who were driven out by the Vigilance Committee.

The New Englanders of this city, of Sacramento, Nevada and other interior cities are making great preparations to publish an organ in appropriate manner, the "Glad of the Pilgrims."

Business in this city has been very dull for the past two weeks, and there is no prospect of an immediate change.

The news from the interior, is not so flattering as it was a week or two ago when we had a fair prospect of rain. The rains which fell had the effect to drive the miners from the rivers to the dry diggings in search of new locations. But they have not been sufficient as yet to enable miners to do anything in the dry diggings. The consequence has been a stoppage in operations to a considerable extent.

Accounts of new discoveries come in from every direction. In the northern part of the State some very valuable ones have been discovered, including placer mines of the particular locality of the same nature, which are very desirable.

## A Call for a Presidential Convention.

A call for a Presidential Convention appears in the morning whig papers, with a sign of the Transcript, by the leading and most distinguished gentlemen of every county in the Commonwealth. It runs thus:

The undersigned, believing that gloomy has arrived when Massachusetts should give a strong concentrated expression of opinion in favor of her distinguished Statesman, and fairly present his name before the people of the Union as the man, who before all others, is best adapted to preserve and strengthen that Union, do hereby invite their fellow citizens, who agree with them in the opinion that

DANIEL WEBSTER

should be the next President of these United States, to meet in Convention at Faneuil Hall, on Tuesday, the 25th day of November next, for the purpose of adopting such measures as may tend to produce this result.

And the friends of this movement, in every city and town of the Commonwealth are requested to send delegates to said Convention.

**SICKNESS IN THE WEST.**—The editor of the St. Louis Republican, on personal knowledge, says there has not, within the knowledge of the settlers on the Upper Missouri, been such a general prevalence of ague and fever, as during this fall. We crossed the Missouri river at old Fort Kearney in Iowa, and from thence down through Missouri to St. Joseph (and the country is populous) we scarcely found a house or family that was not afflicted with the disease, or typhoid fever in some shape or form. Whole families who have for years enjoyed uninterrupted health, were prostrated with the disease. The mortality, however, was not great.—Cin. Enquirer.

The real object of education is to give children re-ources that will endure as long as life endures; habits that will ameliorate, not destroy; occupations that will render sickness tolerable, solitude pleasant, age venerable, life more dignified and useful; and death less terrible.