

# Oregon Spectator.

OREGON CITY:

Tuesday, January 30, 1852.

C. P. Carter, Associate Editor.

The Oregonian seems uneasy as to our course, and inquires "where is the snail?" It seems to us there can be but one object in view, viz: to injure us in the estimation of the public, by his uncalculated allusions. But it is only such recklessness as is characteristic of the man we are told by some. It isly becomes a gentleman, to say the least, to thrust himself towards one whom he had the most reasons to believe was a co-laborer in principle, if not in practice. Our position has been an independent one, and maintained because we thought we could the better subserve the true interests of the country, and no one has questioned our motives for so doing. We should think it incumbent upon us to make an apology to the public if we had exposed our "fish rib" as he has done—and pointed out the spot to the enemy and invited them to the place where they could effectually strike us. Although we thought him guilty of the greatest indiscretion, we never thought it our business to call in question the policy that directed his course, or make a public lament over the fact that he has frequently suffered his zeal to get the upper hand of his judgment. We do not think it our duty to assume the office of the Judiciary in the vexed matter that has so much engaged the public mind for the past three months. They are all now learned in the law than ourselves; consequently we think them able to settle it without our assistance or interference. S. S.

We publish today a letter from a correspondent in the Rogue River country containing an account of an attempt by a white man to incite the Indians of that section to acts of hostility against the miners. It is a fact long known to us, that such monsters in the shape of humanity were in that section, endeavoring by all kinds of means to accomplish their various diabolical designs—and we have felt the necessity of some steps being taken to arrest them in their criminal career. The appointment of Hon. A. A. Skinner, as Indian Agent in that quarter, was an excellent one, and everything to preserve peace there, will be done by him which it is possible for any man to do in his circumstances. The prompt and efficient measures taken by him in this case, to bring the accused to trial, are eminently worthy of commendation. But if by any means a serious outbreak should occur, it would be utterly impossible for him to suppress it with the feeble means within his reach. These facts will undoubtedly be properly represented by our delegate to Congress, and it is to be hoped that his efforts to have a military force permanently stationed in that section may prove successful.

The J. P. Flint.—This steamer made her first appearance at our landing on Tuesday last. She is a fine boat, and we understand will run regularly between this city and Portland. If her present power proves insufficient to bring her over the rapids, it is the intention of the proprietors to place another engine in her, and thus give her power enough to ascend them at any time. Captain Van Bergen is a gentlemanly, obliging Captain, and an enterprising citizen. We wish him success in his undertaking.

We would call attention to the advertisement of Thomas M. F. Patton, Attorney, &c., in to-day's paper. This gentleman has recently located permanently at Salem, Marion County, where he intends devoting his attention to the practice of his profession. We understand that he will attend promptly to the making of collections as well as the general practice of law. This gentleman's known integrity and capacity will undoubtedly secure for him the confidence of the public. See advertisement.

Negligence Somewhere.—We received a letter from Olympia on Saturday, Jan. 11th, which was mailed at that place on the 9th of December last. Only 33 days on the way. Like instances are occurring in our correspondence frequently, and the reasons are to us altogether unaccountable.

Kosuth was to sail from England for America, on the 14th Nov., in the Washington.

### California Legislature.

We learn by the Alta California of Jan. 30, 1852, that the members of the Legislature had decided by a vote taken in San Francisco, to assemble at Valjejo. They were to meet at that place on the 5th of the present month. At the meeting of the members in San Francisco, it appears by the report of the proceedings, that the vote on the question as to the adoption of a resolution in favor of meeting at Valjejo, stood as follows: Ayes, 9 members of the Senate, and 19 of the House; Nays, 4 members of the Senate, and 19 of the House. A letter was read to the meeting, from the Attorney General, J. A. McDougall, upon the subject, in which he expresses his opinion, that Valjejo since the last session of the Legislature, has been and now is the seat of government, as established by law, and must continue so not only until a breach by Valjejo, but until such breach is declared and the contract voided by the State, or until some other act of legislation to remove it."

### Jails.

In most new countries almost the first thing that has to be erected after the country begins to grow and increase rapidly in population, is a strong hold of some sort, for the confinement of the vicious and disorderly who may come among them. Now Oregon numbers some 17,000 inhabitants, and if the Shasta mines prove to be in this Territory, then about 27,000, and if there is the first Jail in the country, or any place for the confinement of criminals, that would hold a man twenty-four hours, with a pen-knife in his possession and a chance to use it, we have yet to see or hear of it. If we were writing to merely build up a temporary reputation for the country without looking to its future welfare, we would stop here; and let our readers draw their conclusions from the above—that we of course would have jails if we needed them—and there being none, of course we were a very orderly people, &c. And we would be very particular to omit stating the fact, that horse thieves, and all other kinds of thieves, were constantly prowling about over the country for the want of a place to shut them up—and that our citizens although sensible of the want of buildings for this purpose, continually neglected to provide for their erection.

We would call the attention of our readers to the card of Mr. Newell in to-day's paper, giving notice of his intention to organize a singing school, on Saturday afternoon next, at the Congregational Church in this city, for the purpose of instructing the youth of both sexes in this art, also, in the evening of the same day. Mr. Newell will attend at the same place to organize an adult class for the same purpose. It is to be hoped that the citizens of the city will manifest sufficient interest in this matter to induce Mr. Newell to remain with us. Although our duties on Friday of last week prevented our being present, we understand in the examination at the seminary that day, his class showed the most marked proficiency in this department, and resulted much to the satisfaction of all. Attend.

### The Washington Telegraph says:

An order has been issued by the British Admiralty, instructing a number of their naval vessels to cruise along the Southern coast of the United States, and to capture all American vessels which they have reason to believe are destined to Cuba with hostile intentions.

Perhaps old England had better insist upon this measure, and claim it as another right, and get whipped again as she did a few years since, when contending for the right of search.

Announcements.—The Steamer Willamette got hard aground a few days since, while attempting to get the bark Mary Melville, off from a bar in the river, about 3 miles above Portland. We understand that arrangements will be made by placing buoys under her keel, to have her relieved upon the first rise of the river.

### Springfield and Alton Railroad.

We learn by the St. Louis Republican, that the means have been raised to finish this road, and the work put under contract, to be finished without unnecessary delay.

The body of Gen. Keller, who was drowned in the Tualatin river a short time since, was found in that stream on Sunday last, near the saw mill belonging to Mr. J. M. Moore.

His funeral sermon was preached yesterday afternoon by the Rev. Mr. Doane, of this city.

We are under obligations to the 'Gen. Warren' from San Francisco, for a file of late California papers. Captain Murray, of the Washington, will accept our thanks for their delivery.

The Legislature at Salem, adjourns to-morrow.

Weather warm and wet—streams falling slowly—business on the river lively.

### Correspondence of the Spectator.

#### Affairs in Sacramento city—Trade—Hunting, &c.

SACRAMENTO CITY, Jan. 1, 1852.

Editors Spectator:—I promised you a line from San Francisco, which never reached you, because never written. My apology is a want of time, for your humble correspondent instead of going on to the State to embrace his wife, hath very lately made up his mind to embrace the location of a California miner.

Sacramento has made some advances towards civilization and morality, in the last 12 months, apparent to the most superficial observer. Instead of half a score of well attended and flourishing gaming establishments, which twelve months ago graced the side walks of J. st., there are now but two,—meagerly patronized, and rapidly declining. Five neat and well attended churches, have opened business in the city; two schools are in successful operation; the police no longer contain that matter of interest for the reading public, which a full criminal calendar in past times beget; business has been systematized, and although the merchants branch does not yield the enormous profit of trade realized in '49 and '50, there is a greater degree of health and prosperity in every department of commerce. There has been, however, but little added to the size and population of Sac. city since the fall of '50. Other towns higher up the river, have divided spoils with her; and Marysville now commands the entire trade of Feather river, and many districts of the Yuba, while Colusa, 100 miles farther up the Sacramento, is the depot for nearly all the supplies consumed in the extensive mining region of Salmon river, Reading's springs, &c., &c. Much teaming, however, is still carried on between this place and the Mokelumne, the Mokelumne, the three forks of the American and Nevada city. The dry diggings about Placerville, which have not been fairly tested for want of water, since the winter of '49 and '50, are now being worked by thousands, with very general success. The manner of operating is by Cayoteing, and really these indefatigable toils have improved very much upon the habitations of their: barking predecessors. In many places about Hangtown, entire hills have been disem boweled, and the population of a town or district industriously at work, two or three hundred feet under ground. In these districts where Cayoteing is profitable the dirt is necessarily very rich, and some large piles pay as high as \$ of a dollar to a bucket. The rains which have been falling thick and fast during the past fortnight, have profited no one so much as the Cayote miner, and if the weather should continue wet until the first of March, millions of dollars will be added to the golden currency of the world, that hitherto slept quietly under the hills about Hangtown and Nevada.

A railroad from this place to Nevada is now being discussed by the knowing ones, and it would not be wonderful if such a scheme was realized, or at least commenced during the next summer. The population in and around Nevada has been estimated at from 30 to 50,000, 9 out of 10 being miners, dependent upon Sacramento city for supplies. Now, these miners make an average of \$3 per day, and in summer when the roads are good, their necessary expenses are trifling and scarcely felt; but at this time, the roads are so heavy that more than 200 per cent. has been put upon every article absolutely necessary to the miners. A railroad would secure a uniformity of prices winter and summer, and could be built for one half the money thus wasted in a single season.

At San Francisco capitalists have planned a railroad from the bay city to San Jose, the route you will see by your late California papers is surveyed, and its cost estimated; the general opinion is in favor of its immediate construction.

The Legislature of this State is in pretty much such a quandary as the same body in your territory—not knowing exactly where to meet. The Gov. says at San Jose—one of the members at Valjejo—others at San Francisco; whilst a few entertain hopes that Sacramento city may be favored with its august presence.

The Seat of Government was voted by the people at Valjejo; but the buildings to be constructed, were to be of certain qualities and dimensions, which it seems they are not, and this is the avowed cause of the difficulty.

Christmas festivities, (God save the mark!) are over—and the new year comes in with a frowning face and watery-eye. The time-honored ceremonies, and hallowed associations connected with these holidays in the old States, and all other Christian lands, are wanting here. No merry-faced children approach with open arms, and their "Ho, ho, ho!"

greeting your ear. No private dinners, served up in extra sumptuous style, invite the hungry beggar to eat; for once at least during the year, his fill. No newspapers, of huge dimensions and gingerbread phiz, stuffed with humorous stories and spiced with epigrams, are handed round the fire side from the old man to the old woman, from the old woman to Betty, and from Betty to little Johnny, who cuts out the nice pictures and pates them against the wall;—no merry sleigh bells jingle, no skaters cutting slides on the ice. No egg nog forms here; it would be worse than scotch ale, thus to waste the fruit of the poultry yard. But instead, we have mud in the streets about a foot deep, where day and cart horse flounce and flounder from morning till night. Stories, not printed, but daily recited, of lucky hounds making piles of one-of-grazys and bulls and bull fights in the morning towns. Hot whisky punch and gin cocktail, loudly sung, and Lopedale, bad colds, a horse race out of town, in mud a foot deep at \$20.00 a side, with other men's athletic games where a club is formed in California, or some other land where gold and its pursuit is the one idea of society. More anon.

Respectfully yours,  
S. S.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

#### Forty-two Children Killed in New York.

Shortly after 2 o'clock on Thursday, the 20th inst., the City was agitated by the report of a most dreadful catastrophe at Ward School No. 23, in Greenwich avenue, near Jefferson Market.

The cause of the first alarm was as follows: Miss Abby Harrison, Principal of the Female Department had been slightly indisposed for a few days, but considered herself quite able to attend to her ordinary duties. At 2 1/2 o'clock, while she was hearing the recitations of a large class, she was attacked with a momentary paralysis of the tongue, she tried to speak, but only made an unintelligible noise; in her effort to speak her face was drawn into disagreeable contortions, and the children in the class where she was teaching, immediately became alarmed, and made a loud scream, which attracted the whole school. A rush was immediately made by the children of the department to the doors, and they commenced to descend the circular stone steps at a rapid rate. The cry of fire was now raised, and Miss Whitney, the Principal of the Primary School, which was on the second floor, opened the door to see what was the matter; she was immediately forced down to the bottom of the steps by the rush of the children, and had scarcely been there two seconds before the railing by the side of the steps began to give way.

After Miss Whitney had been forced from the Primary School, the children took the alarm, and forced their way from the school rooms. Now a scene of the most horrible description presented itself. The railing having given way, commencing at the upright post at the bottom of the staircase, the force which came against it made it break from its fastenings from step to step, until the whole length was broken near half way up the staircase. The pressure from behind will forced the children forward, and they began to fall down the pit between the circular stone steps. Many of them struck their heads against the rough corners of the steps as they fell, and in about two minutes, the children were lying at the bottom one on top of the other, to the height of from twelve to fourteen feet, in one confused mass.

About 40 were taken out quite dead, and one or two others died immediately after being released. The bodies were taken to the Police Station, and the news spread like wild fire throughout the whole neighborhood. Thousands of persons rushed to the spot, and mothers and fathers, frantic with grief, ran wildly from place to place, to find their children. One poor woman went into the School house and found two of her children dead, and her cries and lamentations were the most piteous that human ears have ever listened to.

One after another came to the Police Station, and found the bodies of their dead children, and by about 7 o'clock, 35 of them were recognized and taken to the houses of their disconsolate parents, and shortly after, the other four were also conveyed away, making the whole number killed 42!

### Correspondence of the Spectator.

#### Letter from the Rogue River country—Treasury of a White Man—Attempt to Incite the Indians to Murther the Miners—Full Particulars.

INDIAN AGENT, NEWARK, (Creek Dec. 24, 1851.)

Messrs Editors:—We arrived here on the 15th N.ember—found the Indians perfectly friendly—and they remained so until the 20th December. The Agent received an express from the falls, containing some 12 or 15 miners were at work, and also the residence of the U. S. Agent of San J. conveying him of approaching hostilities on the part of the Snake Indians. He reported to the spot immediately, and ascertained that W. Thompson, a man of consummate courage, was the cause of the difficulty. The hills and mountains taken claims on the 24th, and the Snake Indians were sent to the falls, and were there engaged in a fight with the Indians, and were killed. The Snake Indians were taken to the falls, and were there engaged in a fight with the Indians, and were killed. The Snake Indians were taken to the falls, and were there engaged in a fight with the Indians, and were killed.

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#### New Orleans, November 3.

We have later news from Mexico. The insurgents, on the 30th, gained possession of the greater portion of Matamoros, but Gen. Avalos still held out on the Plaza, with eight pieces of artillery. Gen. Avalos was wounded.

The loss of the Mexicans was 100 killed and wounded, among whom was Gen. Avalos. The loss of the insurgents was three killed and fifteen wounded—among the latter were Capt. Ford and Wardwell the American Consul. Mr. Longstreet, an American Merchant, was killed.

A great fire occurred in the Matamoros Custom House, all the contents were burned, and several warehouses destroyed.

Dates from the city of Mexico are to the 16th ult. The British Minister had an official interview with Arista, and demanded a final answer to Lord Palmerston's dispatch. It is reported that unless a satisfactory answer be soon given, the British would blockade the Mexican ports.

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