— Williams

OREGON SPECTATOR.

D. J. Schmeltzy, C. P. Culver, } Editors. "Westward the Star of Empire takes its way."

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THE OREGON SPECTATOR:

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER,

DEVOTED TO THE MORAL, SOCIAL AND LITERARY INTERESTS OF THE PEOPLE OF OREGON.

D. J. Schmeltzy, Proprietor.

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POETRY.

Last Words of Col. Crittenden.

"A Kentuckian kneels to none but God."

Ah! tyrants forge thy chains at will—
Nay! gall this flesh of mine,
Yet, thought is free, unfetter'd still,
And will not yield to thine!
Take, take the life that Heaven gave,
And let my heart's blood stain thy sod;
Not know ye not Kentucky's brave
Will kneel to none but God!

You've quenched fair Freedom's sunny light;
Her music tones have stilled:
And with a deep and darken'd blight,
The trusting heart has filled!
Then do ye think that I will kneel
Where such as ye have trod!
Nay! point your cold and threat'ning steel,
I'll kneel to none but God.

As summer breezes lightly rest,
Upon a quiet river,
And gently on its sleeping breast
The moonbeams softly quiver—
Sweet thoughts of home light up my brow
Where gushed with the rod;
Yet, these cannot unman me now—
I'll kneel to none but God.

And tho' a sad and mournful tone
Is oddly sweeping by;
And dreams of bliss forever flown
Have dimm'd with tears mine eye—
Yet, mine's a heart unyielding still—
Heapon my breast the clod;
My soaring spirit scorns thy will—
I'd kneel to none but God.

ON A CONTRARY WIFE.

BY THE

A waggish chap, whose vixen wife,
By drowning, lost her precious life,
Called out his neighbors all around,
And told 'em that his spouse was drowned
And, spite of search, could not be found;
He knew, he said, the very nook
Where she had tumbled in the brook,
And he had dragg'd along the shore,
Above the place, a mile or more,
"Above the place!" the people cried—
"Why, what d'ye mean?" the man replied,
"Of course, you don't suppose I'd go
And waste the time to look *below!*
I've known the woman quite a spell,
And learnt her fashions tol'ble well—
Alive or dead, she'd go, I swow,
Against the current any how!"

[Boston Post.

☞ As an illustration of how life is sustained in the Polar latitudes Surgeon Kane mentions that he fell in with a Dane over seventy years of age, who had spent fiftyfive years of age, 73 deg., subsisting during that period entirely on birds, fish, bears, and other animal food. He had not seen a vegetable the whole time.

A Place Vacant.—The Government of Mexico can get no person to act as Minister of Finance. As there is no money in the public treasury, and none likely to be, the business of the department will not suffer much from the vacancy.

☞ Two severe earthquakes were felt in this city on Friday night last, between the hours of half-past nine and twelve o'clock.—*Sunday Dispatch, Dec. 28.*

To the Public.

Oregon City, O. T., Jan. 23d, '52.

Editors Spectator:—In your paper of the 2d inst. a communication from the Rogue River country appears, implicating in the highest degree the character of my son, Worthington Bills, and also my own. Feeling that the letter alluded to does me great injustice, I wish to give you a simple, plain statement of facts, supported by such evidence as I herewith offer to you:—My son is now in the hands of the law, and therefore as he is removed from all liability of being affected by prejudice or passion, I am content that he should await the action of the authority having control over him, and if it should in the end prove that he has been unjustly accused, I should be pleased to have the same publicity given to a notice of his innocence, as has been given to the accusations against him. With regard to the letter of Mr. Painter's, the spirit of candor with which it seems to have been written, forbid the thought of its having been prompted by any other motives than honest convictions, therefore I conceive I am the more called upon, in justice to myself, to offer to the public the following. In the letter alluded to it is stated—"This Bills and his father had taken claims at the falls, some five or six weeks subsequent to my arrival. They entered into an agreement with the Indians for a tract of land which contains some five or six sections." That portion of the above assertion which says that my son had taken a claim in Rogue River valley is correct, but I never had a claim there myself, nor have I ever laid claim to any piece of land in the Rogue Rriver country any where; but on the contrary I then owned a claim in Lane County upon which I resided most of the time after leaving Portland in February last, until about the 10th of October, when I started for the mines near Rogue River. The reason of my going to that country, was simply, that sometime previous my son took a quantity of goods to that country to be sold, and receiving a letter from him to the effect that my presence was needed to settle up some business connected with their sale, and getting the balance due for them, I immediately started. After settling this business, and being pleased with that part of the valley, I looked some farther about the country, and made up my mind to settle in it. My son at this time made a claim, built a house upon it, and made other improvements preparatory to making a farm. I remained and assisted him some in commencing his improvements. At the same time his improvements were going on, I built for myself a house, on what is called the "gold bar," intending to devote my attention for a time to mining or trading at that point;—I also with a view to the promotion of good feeling and harmony between the whites and Indians, about this time built a house for the war chief 'Sam,' upon the condition that he should not permit the Indians to molest in any manner the whites in that section, or those travelling through it; and also that he should prevent the other Indians from burning off the grass in that vicinity. There was no other condition of any manner or kind attached to this transaction; and so far from my son having anything to do in building this house for this chief, he was only engaged in assisting me to fulfill my own engagements, which was no more than others there also done; among whom was Mr. Dean, who was employed to bring my son into this valley—he, Mr. Dean, and all others in the vicinity being familiar with the purpose for which it was being built, and every one in the neighborhood knowing to the circumstance of my building the house for the chief, highly approved of the idea, and thought it would be of much service in promoting good feeling between all parties. Among those thus approving, was the gentleman last named, and the Indian Agent himself.

With regard to the second assertion, quoted above from this letter, it is entirely unfounded, so far as I am concerned, and I have no knowledge of my son being engaged in any such transaction; but if he has, as I said before, he is responsible to the tribunals of his country. In this letter it is charged against me that about the 15th ult. (his letter being written in December) I left for the Willamette valley, and that I "borrowed two or three horses from the miners' and have 'not been heard of since." The facts are that I left there on the 10th of December to come to the valley for the double purpose of selling my improvements and claim in this valley, and of procuring a load of supplies to take back to Rogue River valley for winter use. Before leaving I made an arrangement with a Mr. Jacob Painter, Mr. Sloan, and Mr. Lord, for two horses and one mule belonging to those gentlemen, to be brought by me to the settlements, loaded with provisions, &c., and drove back again; the loads of each of these animals, upon their arrival, to be equally divided between the owner of the horse and myself. This I have done. I loaded the animals and started them for that section, in the care of Mr. Hitt, some days since, and at this time they must have accomplished something more than half their journey.

Mr. Painter also says, "it is the opinion of the citizens that he (the old man) laid the plan to exterminate all the whites, and that Worthington, his son, was to carry it out during his absence; and they were to have the Indians rob all the pack trains and they would reap the rewards of the booty arising therefrom." It would seem to be quite idle for me to simply deny the truth of any part of this assertion, inasmuch as perhaps some evidence besides my own denial might be called for; but it is simply an assertion—and one quite easy to make—and perhaps quite as difficult for the author to prove correct, as for me to show unfounded. What the secret opinions of men may be it is impossible for others to know, and that my secret intentions and designs were not as above represented, I acknowledge would be impossible for me to prove by others. But with regard to the above assertion, I am willing and anxious that my acts while in that country should meet and undergo any examination that may be considered called for by the circumstances of the case. I am conscious of no such designs, and am prepared for an investigation of all things connected with my residence there at any and all times.

With regard to the allusion in this letter, to my being the same man published by Mr. Dryer, of the "Oregonian," last spring, for leaving the country indebted to him, this is the first notice of such publication that I have received. When I left Portland I was not aware that I owed the editor of the "Oregonian" a penny, nor am I now. It is true I had some business with him in the way of advertising and having hand bills printed, &c.; but I always either paid each bill thus made myself or left the means with which it should be done in the hands of my clerks, with orders to pay it to him—and if any bill has ever been left unpaid it was on account of my directions not being attended to—and in no case intentional. If by any means any just demand thus holden by Mr. Dryer, has not been paid, I do now and have at all times stood ready to pay it upon presentation. With regard to his hasty publication of me in this manner (which I have never seen) I would simply say, that no gentleman would thus treat another. He, nor any other man ever had the slightest reason to suppose that I intended to leave this country, and if a bill did remain against me, due to him, he had no reason to suppose I would refuse to pay it; for I had a good deal of printing done at his office, and always paid him promptly, as he cannot deny.

In support of my own statements, as to where I resided previous to starting for the Rogue River country, as I said before, I offer the following certificates.

Lemuel Bills.

Lane County, Jan. 10, 1852.

We, the undersigned, have been acquainted with Lemuel Bills, from five to eighteen months, and have know him to be upright and straight forward in all business transactions.

E. F. Skinner,
E. L. Bristow,
J. W. Poindexter,

and ten others, citizens of the same County.

I have been acquainted six months with Lemuel Bills. He has been laboring on my mill. His dealing with me has been honest. H. Shaw.

We agree in the above, with regard to the character of Mr. Lemuel Bills.

Louis Cannon,
Wm. Stevens,
John Chapman,
P. F. Castleman.

Several other certificates of a like nature with the above, were shown us by Mr. Bills, which it is considered unnecessary to publish.—Eds.

From the New York Sun.

Last words of the Presidents.

Washington was scarcely able to speak, he lay upon his death bed. "I am dying," said he; "my breath cannot last long." And again, "Doctor, I die hard, but I am not afraid to go; I believe my breast will burst with the first attack. I shall not survive it, my breath cannot last long."—And so he ceased to breathe.

More than a quarter of a century elapsed before a similar scene was witnessed. Then on the same day, the jubilee of the nation, Adams, at 90 years of age, and Jefferson at 83, came down to their last hour. "I resign myself to my God," said Jefferson, "and my children to my country." Soon after Adams exclaimed, "Independence forever!" and all was over.—They, too, had ceased to breathe.

Two years after this, at 71 years of age, Monroe ceased to breathe.

Five years after this, at 85 years of age, Madison ceased to breathe.

Nearly five years after this, at 68 years of age, Harrison remarked:

"Sir, I wish you to understand the true principles of the government; I wish them carried out; I ask nothing more." And he ceased to breathe.

Four years after this, at 78 years of age, Jackson observed, in substance: "My sufferings, though great are nothing in comparison with those of my dying Saviour, through whose death I look for everlasting happiness." And he ceased to breathe.

In less than three years after this, at 67 years of age, the second Adams declared: "This is the last of earth; I am content." And he ceased to breathe.

In a little more than one year after this, at 53 years of age, Polk bowed his head in baptism, confessing his Savior. And he ceased to breathe. The lamented Taylor, at 65 years of age submitted to the solemn decree. "I am ready for the summons," said he; "I have endeavored to do my duty. I am sorry to leave my friends." And he ceased to breathe.

☞ The young man who *didn't* take the newspaper was in town the other day. He was last seen on the south side of the public square eyeing very attentively a large wooden watch with painted hands, which to the initiate indicates the time of day, if one may be found in the vicinity. After eyeing the sign for some moments, he leisurely drew forth a huge silver watch, and observed, "I've been wantin' to regulate my watch for some time, and here's a first rate chance to get the true time." "Excellent," replied a bystander, "your watch don't vary a second in a month." The green one proceeded to set his watch by the unerring time, and then travelled.

Who would not Die with such a Sweet as Barrow?—We are informed by an eye witness, says the Buffalo Republic, that upon the occasion of the commencement celebration of the Canadian Railroad on Wednesday last, when Lady Elgin and the Governor General attended to turn the first sod a solid silver spade was presented by the corporation to Lady Elgin, and an elegantly polished black walnut wheelbarrow to the Governor General. With the silver spade the first shovel full of earth was taken out by the lady, and in the black walnut barrow it was wheeled away by her spouse. This is the style in which they "manage these matters" in Canada.

What is Treason?—This question, so frequently propounded since the fugitive slave riot at Christiana, is thus answered in the Philadelphia Bulletin by an eminent lawyer of that city:

If a body of men conspire and meditate an insurrection, to resist or oppose the execution of any statute of the United States by force, they are only guilty of a high misdemeanor; but if they proceed to carry such an intention into execution by force, the are then guilty of treason by levying war.—[Wheaton's American Criminal Law, 550, United States vs. Mitchell, 2 Dall, 348.

Conviction under the New Postage Law.—At the last term of the United States District Court, held at Iowa City, Isaac Sloan was convicted of using post office stamps twice, and sentenced to pay fifty dollars and three cents damages. This is the first instance of the kind under the new law.

Silver Discovery.—The Russians have discovered four important veins of silver ore in the Caucasus. The veins are rich in the yield of silver. The working of them has already been commenced by order of the Emperor.

The Emperor of Russia has ordered a diamond breastpin to each of the policemen who was on duty at the Russian jewelry department in the World's Fair.

History of the Book of Mormon.

As the Book of Mormon, or Bible, (originally entitled, the Golden Bible,) is now attracting much attention, and is claimed by a portion, to be of equal authority with the sacred scriptures, I think it only where I have been, public to state what I know to belong to its origin.

Solomon Spaulding, my father, was united in marriage at Ashford, Windham county, Conn., to Miss Lovina Dickinson, of Dartmouth, Mass., a lineal descendant of Captain Miles Standish, and a great kinsman of John Alden. At the time of our marriage we resided in Cherry Valley, New York. From this place we removed to New Salem, Ashtabula county, Ohio, sometimes called Conneaut, as it is situated on Conneaut creek. Shortly after our removal to this place, the people, simple, and in some cases ignorant from motives of interest, in the town of New Salem, discovered numerous mounds and fortifications, supposed by many to be the Mississippi district, and fortifications of a race now extinct. The ancient remains, [illegible] of the new settlement, became the subject of conversation among the people, and gave rise to various conjectures as to the manner in which they came there. Some were for ascribing the work to the Indians, others were for giving it to the Spaniards, but all were lost in wonder that such a people should have existed so long without the knowledge of the world. Some were for tracing the Indians back to the lost tribes of Israel, others were for proving that the Spaniards had visited this place in their progress northward, and that these were the works they had left behind them. In the course of these discussions, my father frequently read from the manuscript he had prepared, in which he had endeavored to show that these mounds were the work of the ancient inhabitants of this continent, and that they had arisen from small beginnings, and had gradually increased in magnitude and importance, as their population increased, and that they had finally been overwhelmed in a general destruction, such as had befallen the Nephites, as related in the Book of Mormon. In the course of these conversations, it was a common thing for my father to say that the Indians were but a degenerate race, and that it was not probable that they had, for many generations, been capable of erecting works such as those which were the subject of our conversations. My father had formerly been a clergyman, and was fond of the ancient history, and was in the habit of spending his leisure hours in the study of the Bible, and in the exercise of his imagination in the construction of romances, founded on the events recorded in the Bible, and in the application of the various events there recorded, to the history of the ancient inhabitants of this country, which he had long before, in his mind, located in the valley of the Mississippi. In the year 1809, my father with his family, moved to Pittsburgh, Pa., and in the year 1812, he commenced the work, which he had long meditated, of committing his ideas to paper, in the form of a romance, with the intention of publishing it for the purpose of paying the debts of his father, who had died in Dartmouth, Mass., leaving his mother, who was his only heir, in very indigent circumstances. In the year 1814, he had completed his manuscript, which was in the form of a romance, and had commenced its publication, when he was prevented by the sickness and subsequent death of his amanuensis, Henry Lake, Aaron Wright, and others, with all of whom I was well acquainted, as they were my neighbors at New Salem. I was then a boy, but I well remember the sorrow and grief of my father, that the unfinished state of his work, was the cause of his being called a liar, and that his friends would grieve my father, that the use of his work. The manuscript, which was thrown about in his study, I have frequently heard my father say, was intended to be the foundation of a romance, with which to amuse his friends, and to gain a pecuniary profit, by the sale of his work, which was to be a romance, with plain expressions of the sacred Scriptures. The manuscript was in the form of a new Bible, and was intended to be a company of poor de-[illegible]—The Vermonts.

Soldier's Privileges.

It is well known that "Old Hickory" was equally popular in the army and among the people at large. No man ever [illegible] so many [illegible] have been related, [illegible] among his personal friends. Here we give two of these which we do not remember to have seen in print before.

[illegible] years ago, an officer who was [illegible] of his grade in the United States, on his way home, gave a dinner party, on a cold [illegible] was attacked so violently [illegible] he became exasperated [illegible] that the fire plugs were all [illegible]. Under these circumstances he [illegible] to conceal himself [illegible] and waited until his [illegible] disappeared. In this condition [illegible], and, of course, one [illegible] of office hunters [illegible] communicate to Gen. [illegible] President of the United [illegible] the gallant defender of Fort [illegible] found drunk in the street. [illegible] stood for a moment reflecting, [illegible]—"Very [illegible] Colonel. *But, [illegible] enough [illegible] in his* [illegible] the recog-[illegible] to get [illegible] *provided!* he [illegible]

[illegible] the late Major [illegible] of the Port of [illegible] which office he had been [illegible] by President Adams. Of course the Major was a Federalist and one of Gen. Jackson's political opponents. During the struggle of the American Colonies for independence, Major G. had distinguished himself on several occasions. He had commanded a flying hospital under Mad Anthony, at Stony Point. After the inauguration of Jackson as President, the Major, who was an bitter a politician as he had been gallant and [illegible], in an excited discussion about politics, declared that "Old Hickory" was "a d——d scoundrel!" The speech was promptly reported to the President, by one of his friends, who supposed a vacancy would be coming. "Well, what of it?" was Jackson's reply. "The man who commanded a forlorn hope of Anthony Wayne, has full right to curse anybody he pleases!"

Public Schools of New York.—The average daily attendance of pupils, male and female, in the various public schools of this city, including the Free Academy, seminal and evening schools, is estimated at 50,000. The total number who receive instruction yearly, is 112,000. The cost of instructing these is over half a million of dollars per annum.

U. S. Senator from Tennessee.—Ex-Governor James C. Jones, of Tennessee, has been elected a United States Senator by the Legislature of that State, to serve six years from the 4th of March last, when the term of Mr. Turney expired.

The Spanish Difficulty.—It is now said there is no truth in the despatch relative to the Spanish Minister threatening to demand his passports, in case the demand of his Government for the settlement of the New Orleans difficulty, was not complied with.

Father Mathew left America on Saturday, 24th inst. It is stated that he leaves entirely free from debt. In his parting speech he announced that he had saved more than 600,000 drunkards since he had been in America.