



Oregon Spectator.

OREGON CITY:
Tuesday, February 10, 1852.
C. P. Culver, Associate Editor.

WITHDRAWAL.

Inasmuch as a different course in the conduct of the *Spectator*, from the one lately pursued, has been resolved upon by the proprietor, and as this number will close my editorial connection with it, it may not be considered improper for me to state briefly, some of the reasons which have prompted me in my withdrawal; and also some of those considerations which have influenced my course while engaged in conducting it.

The exciting questions growing out of the location of the public buildings of the territory, which have so much engaged the attention of the public, and concerning which there still exists great diversity of opinions, have been made the subject of the most bitter newspaper controversy, and given rise to a degree of feeling altogether unknown in the former history of the country. So great has been the feeling manifested in the discussion of this subject, that since the first commencement of it those engaged in carrying it on, have quite overlooked the question at issue; and in a majority of cases, made the persons and the private character of our public officers the subject of their animadversion. This kind of personal controversy I have uniformly declined to participate in, or have any connection with. In assailing the personal and private character of public men, in any case of a difference of opinion, instead of the principles by which they profess to be governed, I have always believed that much more must be lost than could possibly be gained, as it must appear to be more the object of the attack to injure the reputation of the officer, and gratify partisan feeling, than to overthrow the principles advocated by him.

I have also, been unwilling to identify in any manner the Whig party of the territory with this contest, created and supported, as it has been by sectional and local feeling. The principles of the party I consider as of too much importance to be heedlessly endangered by the hasty adoption of trivial questions of secondary moment, calculated to confuse and distract the future action of its members.

I have been convinced that it would be impossible for a journal professedly devoted to Whig principles, to take an active part in this personal and sectional controversy, without in some degree entangling itself, and with it the party, in the difficulties and discontents attached to it; which is not only unnecessary, but inconsistent with the real state of feeling upon this vexed question. I have therefore, as one of the conductors of a Whig journal, been unwilling to adopt such a course.

I am a Whig, and devoted to the principles of the party; and while the senior editor and myself agree in the general principles which should control the conduct of a public journal, a difference of opinion as to the propriety of entering into the present personal controversy exists between us; and not wishing to embarrass, in any manner, the action of the paper, this step has been taken.

In withdrawing from the post assigned me by the proprietor, I would embrace the opportunity to assure the patrons of the *Spectator*, that under the superintendence of Mr. SCHENLEY, they will find in it a reliable public journal, and an able exponent of the principles of the Whig party.

C. P. CULVER.

We would invite the attention of our readers to the letter of the Surveyor General, Jno. B. PRESTON, Esq., published in to-day's paper. The notice of claimants is called to various subjects of importance to them, and the instructions given in this letter are plain and explicit, and it is desirable that all should follow them in order to save any unnecessary loss of time and expense.

An advertisement will also be found in to-day's paper from the same source, to which we would call the attention of our readers.

The Multnomah, during the last trip down, in clearing the landing at Simpson's, came in contact with a snag, which jacked the boat from stern to stem, carrying away a part of the wheelhouse and otherwise damaging the cabin. At the same time the cap from one of the cylinders was injured as to render the boat unmanageable; in consequence of which no landing was effected until they arrived at Canandaigua.

The President's Message again.

As we expected, the *Statesman* finds fault with this document, and declines to publish it. It is the business of partisan editors of the Locofoco school to denounce it, and we expected as much from the *Statesman*. If the President had followed the usual course of the locofocos, and taken advantage of the occasion to endeavor to impress upon his readers the policy of his own party, by an elaborate pettifoggery of the principles held by them, it might then have been considered by our neighbor, as at least deserving of a perusal. But as it is he can discover nothing good in it, and pronounces it unworthy of perusal even, and says if he should publish it, he does not "suppose that five men among them [his readers] would read it if we should, and they would not be profited." Perhaps the *Statesman* would prefer to lay before his readers the speculations of Ex-Secretary Walker, contained in his report at the head of the Treasury Department. The Ex-Secretary proved by a course of reasoning which showed the most consummate financial abilities, that under the workings of the tariff then in operation, the production of his own wonderfully scientific party, that the exports of breadstuffs from the United States in the year 1851, would amount to about 370 millions of dollars; and by reference to this message, which the *Statesman* thinks so "interminably long and tediously uninteresting," it will be seen that he made a very nice calculation, inasmuch as they are 319 millions and 51 thousand dollars short of it.

Wreck of the "General Warren." Forty-two Lives Lost.

We last week gave a short account of the loss of this vessel near the mouth of the Columbia, and stated that fears were entertained for the safety of the passengers. The few particulars given by us then we ascertain to be correct, and in addition we have the following further particulars:—After grounding her on "Clatsop spit" she held together only a short time—parting about the centre; the passengers and crew, in all fifty-two, clinging to the highest parts of the vessel, with the waves constantly breaking over them.

Captain Thompson, Master, and Capt. Flavel, Pilot, decided to send to Astoria for help, and one of the boats in an attempt to launch it, was dashed to pieces; but they succeeded in getting the second one safely launched, when Capt. Flavel, the first and second mates, four sailors, and two of the passengers ventured to it. A reluctance was manifested to venture out in the boat, and it was not without a considerable difficulty that a sufficient number to manage it could be induced to undertake the trip.

They reached Astoria in safety, and about 5 o'clock in the morning were ready to return, and made all dispatch to the scene of the disaster, but upon their arrival nothing was to be seen of the vessel, save a few floating timbers and spars from the wreck. The vessel was entirely gone, and all left on board, 42 in number, must have perished. No bodies had been washed ashore up to the last accounts.

Aboard this melancholy disaster may, without explanation, be attributed to the difficulties of the entrance; whereas the sole cause of the accident is to be found in the unsoundness of the vessel itself, and its old and rotten condition. She passed over the bar twice, going out and returning, without difficulty.

Our Mail Service Again.

The Missouri Republican speaks in terms of commendation of the promptness with which the Postmaster General had listened to the complaints of a deficiency of mail service in that State, and remedied the evil by the establishment of additional post routes.

We trust the wants of the southern portion of Oregon in this respect, may be properly represented to the Post Office Department, and urged upon their attention, until the Mail Company on this coast are compelled to either leave the mails for that region at Umpqua city, as required, or forfeit their contract. This territory has been very shabbily treated by this overgrown Company, from the first moment of their service on this coast, and the wants of an entire country, sacrificed to the promotion of individual speculation quite long enough. We are not disposed to find fault unnecessarily, but the total disregard by this Company, of every consideration of duty enjoined upon them by their contract, calls for immediate correction.

They have not only failed to comply with the spirit of their contract, but have utterly disregarded the letter of the instrument, and this without any sufficient reason.

Hon. O. C. Pratt, his Consistency—the Spectator.

It will be seen, in another column, that we have entered the political arena.—The transcendental democracy have no fit to employ all manner of means to accomplish their designs—every clap-net has been resorted to to catch the populace. How successful they have been, time will make known. The somersets that several of them have turned would do credit to the most skilled in gymnastics.

In assuming our new position, we must find fault with the proceedings of the transcendentalists; at whose head stands Hon. O. C. Pratt. With his acts as a private citizen we have nothing to do; but to use a vulgar phrase, as he is "the biggest teal in the puddle," we must attach the most importance to his acts; for he may be said to have ruled the roast solus. He is undoubtedly responsible for the acts of the majority of the Legislature, and held as complete dominion over both houses, during his brief reign, as did Caesar, in his palmiest days, over the Roman Empire. No monarch, it is said, ever sat, for the same length of time, who exercised greater control.

We are no lawyer, consequently we judge not as to who is right in his opinion respecting the "location law;" the knotty subject that has so much engaged the heads of the learned and wise men of the Territory; but we claim to have a small share of common sense, with the unlearned, vulgar populi, and capable of detecting inconsistencies in the conduct of those who occupy stations so far above us; and at the same time, judge of the motives that impel men to action, when laboring to verify their own predictions, and to prove thereby that they are gifted with the spirit of prophecy.

In the first place we find fault with Judge Pratt for attempting to forestall public opinion, by publishing lengthy written articles over fictitious signatures. (We commit no breach of confidence by the exposure; as he has told the same to many others, and made them his boast,) signed "Yamhill" and "Emigrant."—How well he succeeded is known to every person at all conversant with the history of politics for the last three or four months.

Secondly, we disapprove and most heartily condemn his course as a politician; because we think it the duty of every one occupying the exalted and responsible station of Judge, to keep aloof from politics. Of all officers in the territory, Judges should be the most honest and the least susceptible of political corruption. Admitting Judge P. was and is right, and the majority of the Supreme Court wrong, it is anti-democratic, and in the highest degree demagogical to attempt to override the acts of the majority. The basis of our republican institutions is that the majority in all cases, shall rule. Now, can it by any established rule in politics, be proven that Judge Pratt is a majority? We know not. How can he, we would ask, call himself a democrat, when he violates every principle that pertains to the true meaning of the word democracy?

In the third place, we join issue with Judge P. for taking advantage of the majority of the members, because, forsooth, they were of the same political complexion, thereby establishing in its tendency, the rule, which is anything else but democratic, that "might makes right." In a republican government like ours, the majority will, and the minority abide by it; but Judge P. professing to be a democrat, turned traitor to the very colors under which he sailed, and by his past acts forfeits every claim he has, if he ever had any, to the democracy. But transcendentalism has no limits. Law, precedent and usage cuts no figure in his case.

We hold the doctrine that the man who has but one talent and abuses it, is less culpable than he who has five, and turns them to a bad account. Suppose for instance, Judge P. is the man of five talents and the majority of the Supreme Court have but one each, can he, with all his abilities, count more votes than the two? If he could, would it be democratic if he did? (We make free use of the word democracy, because the Judge is an acknowledged leader of the so-called democracy, or transcendentalists more properly speaking.) We rejoice in the fact that he cannot count more votes than an illiterate plebeian, like ourself, in a State election. If the people of the country were all such democrats as Judge P., we would soon see a similar state of things as prevails the Republics of Mexico—a spirit of revolution would run riot over the land. The Lord deliver us from such democracy! We say.

Now Judge P. is as much entitled to his opinion as any other man; but when his business requires him to act in a judicial capacity, and he goes off to another

place to have his vanity tickled, and assume the leadership of a party of transcendentalists, where deeds have been influenced by the worst kind of partisan bigotry or Mormonism, (thanks to Dr. Newell for the title.) The transcendental Judge, by his course, has shown himself to have feelings and principles in consonance with the Mormons. His course and doctrines are in perfect keeping with Brigham Young's; who had the physical power to expel the officers, sent there by government, and made use of it to the utmost extent. Judge P. is for expelling the public officers from the territory, and has gone so far as to dictate his successor—whilst he himself, is to be promoted to the highest seat in the sin agogue.

Fourthly, and lastly, we object to the course of Judge Pratt in attempting to get possession of and wear the clothes of a dead man; who whilst living was utterly despised and openly condemned by him. This seems to be the last resort, after exhausting every other expedient.—The tottering platform he framed in the beginning gave way, and for the purpose of restoring himself to public confidence, he has made this final tack. If such a thing had been hinted to him one year ago he would have bristled up and denounced in unmeasured terms, the accusation.—When men weave a gauze for the purpose of deceiving the public, it should not be made of such flimsy material as to enable the suspicious, at least, to see through it.

We have thus long kept out of the controversy that has so much engaged the wise heads of the land, merely because our paper was not a political one. We have strove to keep down party feeling, and shall still oppose party organization. But the course of the transcendentalists has disgusted us that we thought longer forbearance would cease to be a virtue. This last move of Judge Pratt has removed the last plank from the platform of our confidence. A mere difference of opinion, we believe, could never induce a man of his intelligence to thus act for the public weal. We cannot help suspecting his motives to be all for self, the only person he knows on earth. Now, that he is the embodiment of the Territory's wisdom, we never have believed, but we placed him high in the scale for talents and acquirements, and still give him his due on that score.

We are not a fault-finder, nor have we played the part of one during our editorial career; nor do we now find fault with Judge P. because it is pleasant to us.—But when we find a person endeavoring by all sorts of means to play the demagogue, as he has done, we must speak out. Much might be said about other appointments made by Gen. Taylor's predecessor. That is not our game. We leave it as we found it, and from this out, we will watch the opposition, expose their iniquities, and, by all honorable means, uphold the Whig faith.

It is our purpose to do, as near as we are able to judge, what is right, uphold wrong in no one, and at all times and under all circumstances be decently Whig to the end of the chapter.

From the N. Y. Weekly Times.

The Outrage on the Prometheus.

According to the statement of Captain Churchill, the Prometheus was about to leave the harbor of San Juan, without paying certain port charges claimed by the authorities of Greytown on behalf of the Mosquito King. The ground of refusal to make the payment is not set forth—but whatever it was, it appeared to be unsatisfactory to the commander of the British brig-of-war "Express," who caused two shots to be fired into the American vessel. When applied to for explanation of this extraordinary course, the officer replied, "it was to protect the authorities of Greytown in their demands, and that if the steamer did not come to anchor, a bombshell and a broadside of grape and canister should be thrown into her." The American captain, feeling the propriety of listening to these cogent inducements, paid the claim under protest, and sailed for New York.

There are very many curious folk who will be prying into the reasons why the American flag upon the American coast, is to be dishonored by such treatment. They will be inquisitive to know what business British cruisers have in those waters at any rate; and by what warrant they are permitted to renew the scenes which superinduced the war of 1812. There can be no doubt that the administration will investigate the case very thoroughly; and in vindicating the honor of the flag, we hope it will define the future limits of English interference in our affairs.

The President on learning of the outrage, it was perpetrated on the Prometheus by a British Man-of-War at Nicaragua, ordered a competent naval force to repair immediately to San Juan, for the protection of American vessels, and also directed a note to be sent to the British government demanding an explanation.

Correspondence of the Spectator.

Polk County, O. T., Jan. 14, '52.

Meena Kurios.

I again resume my pen to impart to you and the public generally, some further information respecting matters worthy of public observation, in and connected with Polk County.

I shall begin with towns and town sites. These have been almost as much neglected by the writing public, as our agricultural products—in fact some of them have been treated with infinite contempt by some of the public functionaries of the land, as I purpose to show in the proper place.

One of the oldest and most important of the town situations of this county is Cincinnati, located on the Willamette river, at the mouth of the La Creole, (vulgarily pronounced and written Kierall) river. This flourishing place bids fair soon to become one of the most important towns of the Willamette, or any of its tributaries. The country back of Cincinnati is amongst the most desirable portion of Oregon, in point of good water, soil and timber, healthy situations, and beautiful scenery.

On the Willamette six miles above Cincinnati, is situated the growing village of Independence. This is a point of some importance. Next in proceeding southward up the Willamette, some 6 or 8 miles, we come to the picturesque site of Liberty. This place speaks for itself—it needs but to be seen to have its advantages appreciated.

The foregoing embraces so far as I am aware, all the river town sites of note or importance in this county. But we have a Seat of Justice, located near the geographical centre of the inhabitable portion of the county. Now I wish to call particular attention to the name of this County Seat. And before proceeding further allow me to state, that its name has served as a pretext for some characters, both public and private, to treat the poor little place with a great deal of contempt. Even the pulsant conductor of one of the Oregon presses, declared that he would never notice or mention our county seat, (in his highly respectable columns of course,) while it retains its present name. If you think, friendly Editors, that it will produce no deleterious effects, on the nerves of the readers of the *Spectator*, we will let them see it in all its horrors, just as large as life. HIS CYNTHIAN!! Just look at it! Is there anything in its appearance or sound to shock the nerves of a gallant hearted knight of the quill?—But alas! poor fellow, perhaps its sound touches some secret tender chord, that the world knows not of, and arouses reflections that he would fain have lie dormant.

At Cynthian, the county has erected a very respectable Court House, capacious enough for the transaction of all public business of the county for some years to come. It is beautifully located on a high rolling prairie, commanding an extensive view of the La Creole valley, and the surrounding country; excellent timber to any amount, for building or other purposes, is convenient and easily obtained.—The healthiness of the situation is unquestioned. But poor thing, it has a name that nobody speaks with praise. Even its legal guardians after naming it, were so ashamed that (from this or some other cause,) they gave no notice in the newspapers of the public sale of lots, which they say took place at Cynthian. But there are serious doubts in this community, whether the sale was very public or not, for very few persons in the county or out, ever heard of such a thing till the so-called public sale of town lots in the so-called town of Cynthian, had passed by; the public can judge whether such a sale is a public sale or otherwise. However, these guardians of Polk and the county seat of Polk County have some plausible excuses for their manner of proceeding, which need not now be noticed.

I would now mention another public functionary who (on account of the name, or from some other cause best known to himself) has, most emphatically treated Cynthian with unmerited contempt, to wit: the Postal Agent for this territory. He passes through our County—does he the ground line—fixes one P. O. 4 miles east of Cynthian, another 3 miles west—the route from one to the other passing (with a significant toss of the head,) directly by Cynthian's Court House door. Thus leaving the people of "the geographical centre of the inhabitable portion of the County," without any mail facilities, unless they travel three or 4 miles towards the extremities of the County.

As characteristic of the foregoing, we notice a petition to Congress on the sub-

*We understand that Mr. Coe, the Postal Agent was guided in the establishment of the Post Office and mail routes, to be for our correspondent's letter, altogether by the wishes of the citizens in that vicinity, as expressed to him.—Eds.

ject of mails and mail routes, dated Oregon Territory, October 20, 1851; praying (among other things,) for two principal mail lines, diverging from Portland City, and running on the west side of the Willamette, the entire length of the valley.—This petition in locating these routes names the principal points by which each is to pass, embracing the county seat of every county through which they pass, (where the county seat has been located) except that of Polk County; that they very naturally miss, calling for points, almost within sight on the right hand and on the left. If this is treating a democratic county seat of a democratic county, in a democratic manner, I have lost my democratic judgment.

Respectfully, R.

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Oregon City, Feb. 5, '52.

EDITORS *SPECTATOR*.—As there appears to have been some misunderstanding on the part of a few settlers in relation to the "necessity of surveying claims," I would say, that the object of having all claims surveyed, and the lines and corners defined before the Government survey was made, was to prevent conflicts of boundaries; also to enable the others to describe in their notifications the precise tract of land claimed by courses, distances, metes, and bounds; and to point out to the Deputy Surveyor the boundaries of the claim, so that the intersection of the claim lines with the lines of the Government survey, could be noted and returned with the notes of survey of the Township.

Having the points of intersection of the claim lines with the lines of the public survey, and a description of the claim by metes and bounds in the notification, the Surveyor General would be able to note temporarily on the Township plates the tract or tracts so designated with the boundaries.

It will be necessary for those persons who did not have their claims surveyed previous to the Government survey, and those who have not pointed out their boundaries to the Deputy Surveyor, so that the introduction of the claim lines with the lines of the Government survey could be noted, to have their claims surveyed, and the distance from one corner of their claim to a section or quarter section corner, (naming the number of section, Township, and range to which the corner belongs,) ascertained so as to give in their notification a description of the precise tract or tracts of land claimed.

To prevent loss of time on the part of the settlers, I would suggest that when they fill their notifications, they be prepared to make proof of citizenship, if citizens by birth—if naturalized citizens, furnish a certified copy of their naturalization papers.

If an alien having declared his intentions to become a citizen of the United States, furnish a certified copy of his declaration of intention to become a citizen.

If married, furnish a marriage certificate, or make proof of marriage.

Also make proof of the date of the commencement of residence in Oregon, and of residence and cultivation on the claim described in the notification.

The law requires the notification to be filled within three months after the date of survey, where the settlement was made before the survey.

Proof of the date of commencement of residence and cultivation, is to be made within twelve months after the date of the survey. It will, however, be necessary to have proof of residence and cultivation, upon the tract described in the settlers notification made and all conflicts of boundaries adjusted, before a Deputy Surveyor can be appointed to survey and mark these claims, that it is not practicable to take by legal subdivisions.

Respectfully yours,
JNO. B. PRESTON,
Surveyor General of Oregon.

Sensible.

We find the following sensible paragraph in the *Westfield (Mass.) Newsletter*:—"There is no news of great importance from Oregon. Mr. Bush of the Statesman, and Dryer of the Oregonian, in the absence of matter of more importance, are calling each other hard names, and accusing each other from varying from the strict line of truth." This controversy may be interesting to some of the citizens of Oregon, but we, in this region, being somewhat acquainted with human nature, would rather hear something about the improvements, physical, mental and religious, which are taking place in this far-off Territory, than to read foolish disputations between two editors.

Appointment.

Hon. James Whitfield, Governor of Mississippi, has appointed Col. Tarpley to the vacancy on the Bench, caused by Judge Sharkey's resignation. The *Vicksburg True Issue* says it was offered to Jefferson Davis, who declined.—Tribune.