

# Oregon Spectator.

OREGON CITY

Friday, August 19, 1853.

## The Editor's Salutatory.

In re-publishing a journal, or commencing one new, it is usual to foreshadow the course or line of policy it is intended to pursue. In accordance with this custom, we shall say, briefly, that our paper will be decidedly whig in politics, but at the same time, decently so. We are not one of those bigoted politicians who believes all the virtue of the country is possessed by any particular class or set of persons; nor shall we deem it our duty to labor any person for opinion's sake merely. The existence of the two great political parties, we believe highly essential; the purity of our republican institutions may be attributed to this fact, and no doubt the salvation of the country is more or less dependent upon the mutual guardianship thus exercised by the parties. Fault-finding and eternal grumbling, evidently have a pernicious tendency, and detract very much from the usefulness of a family newspaper. One great endeavor with us will be to make our paper a welcome visitor in the family circle, by calling to our assistance such aid as will warrant us in making the promise—and such extracts from our cotemporaries as will best enable us to make good the contract. We are now, more than ever, convinced of the truthfulness of the saying, "honesty is the best policy." What we have to say shall be said, more with a view of being right, than to be popular. We have no affection for popular claptraps or demagogic humbugs. Having said thus much we launch our bark upon the wave of public favor, to be steered by conscience, the interests and welfare of the country.

**OUR PROSPECTS.**—We re-commence the publication of our paper under quite favorable auspices. Our citizens generally are sensible of the advantages of a newspaper, and, perhaps, are better able, at the present time, to appreciate one than they have been at any former period. Such is our belief at any rate, and such is the idea held out to us. The sea is perfectly calm before us. The evidences of advancement are seen all around us, and that one idea appears to absorb everything else, and has spread like a contagion among our citizens. It is not confined to any one particular thing, but this same spirit has infused itself into almost every department of business, known among us.

We might add, in this connection, we are perfectly self-possessed—"we are at peace with all the world," and shall endeavor to cultivate the most amicable relations with the rest of mankind. We are called foolish and simple for undertaking the task we have before us. That can be better judged of when it is tried. If the spirit is not wanting among those who should encourage us, we shall have no fears of the result.

Help us, and we will assist you, is the idea we would urge upon persons in every branch of business that is worthy of it.

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?**—It has been suggested to us that we had better change the title of our paper to adopt some new name would be better. Persons from feelings of delicacy, may, and do sometimes, change their names; but what propriety there could be in us making a change (when there is nothing outlandish or ridiculous in the word *Spectator*, which to our taste sounds just as well as anything else) we are unable to see. It is the matter and manner, and not the name, that gives the newspaper its force and effect. If our friends will only exert themselves towards procuring us material aid in the shape of "dimes and dollars," we will not only give them a paper worthy of support, but one that will reflect credit upon our city, and be an honor to the county.

**FRANKWORTHY.**—Our citizens have taken the initiatory steps to procure an engine and complete fire apparatus. A fire company is soon to be organized, which, when effected, will place our city in a position we have long wished to see it in. We understand that some \$1500 is the amount already subscribed. Several \$200 subscriptions head the list. This is certainly an important move. It is carrying out the maxim of the distinguished congressman, "in time of peace, prepare for war."

☞ We have settled upon Friday as our regular day of publication for the present, which perhaps, will continue to be, unless an alteration in the mails requires a change on our part.

☞ No news of importance from the States by the last steamer.

## Oregon City.

It is being conceded, even by its enemies, that Oregon City is fast assuming that importance, in a business point of view, that every discriminating mind could have supposed. There is ten times the amount of business done here now, to that done twelve months ago. To meet the demands of this increase of trade, large buildings have been erected and are still in process of erection. Dr. McLaughlin has nearly completed, on Main Street, two of the largest and most complete, finished buildings in the city. Both of these houses are already occupied by wholesale establishments.—Messrs. Miles, Cushman & Co., occupying the one, and Messrs. Preston, O'Neil & Co., the other.

S. W. Moss, too, is contributing largely towards improving and beautifying the city, by building in its very heart, still more commodious business establishments, to meet the exigencies of the times in that region. One large building is already completed and occupied by Mr. Sawyer, as a Store, Tin, and Sheet Iron Manufactory; and another progressing rapidly towards completion, probably one of the largest and most substantial buildings in the city.

This spirit of emulation is highly commendable, and is extending itself to others. Mr. Hiffeld, too, not to be outdone by the improvements around him, has been moved to enlarge his sphere of action, by supplying the situation of his present establishment with a large two story building.

Ferdinand Behm has erected, immediately opposite Abernethy & Co's, brick store, a tasty and rather neat building, which is designed for a business house. And last, though not least, Mr. Smith has erected a Foundry and Machine Shop in connection with it, on Main street. This pressing necessity of the case demanded, and we are glad to see that he is turning it to so good an account. He is employing a great many hands, and uses steam (a very great improvement) instead of horse-power, and is now prepared to do casting of almost every kind, from one pound up to a thousand. Truly this is an age of progression.

It is a fixed fact, Oregon City is to be the town of the Willamette valley. Nature has performed her handiwork, and our citizens are fast turning it to account. The period for advancement is near at hand, and we rejoice in the fact that we are enabled and privileged to chronicle the tidings. The New York of the Willamette valley, if not of Oregon, is to be located here. The facilities for trading here are such, at present, that an up-country merchant can purchase a full supply of almost everything. And our merchants are aware that nothing is wanting now, but to make it to the interest of those above to step here, by making their per centage reasonable.

We have long been convinced of the fact that business knows no favorites; so that any person, or set of persons, who offer the greatest inducements, must get the run. That point once gained, it will be difficult to place limits to our prosperity. All things must have a beginning, and as nature has marked this spot as one in a thousand, it becomes our people to turn these advantages to account; this done, it will be no easy task to forecast or calculate the result. No combination, no enterprise can compromise the spirit of progression now so rife in this city. It not only evinces itself in one particular, but every department of business has received an impetus worthy of admiration. These are facts, that he who runs can see.

Business in one line begets business in another. The employment given to laborers is increased more than four-fold this year last year. In fact, all our mechanics are doing a thriving business. The trade is being reduced to a system, and we feel that we are scarcely able to do justice to this branch of our subject. More anon.

☞ That serenade in the streets the other night recalled to our mind bygone scenes and old associations, when we used to station ourselves under the window of our dulcinea, to break the stillness of the night by breathing out, in the softest and most exquisite style, our love ditties. We almost fancied that the romance of our earlier days was about to return, and our illusion was only dispelled by old Morpheus taking us captive, and driving from our recollection old chums and classmates, as well as the little enchantress that so frequently disturbed our dreams. Were it not for broomsticks *et cetera* we might pursue this subject further. Let this suffice.

☞ The Willamette river is quite low, and steamboating somewhat difficult, both above and below the falls.

**THE MAILS.**—A friend of ours had a letter mailed at Hillsborough, for this city, some five weeks since; it was just three weeks and three days precisely on the road. We had one that did a little better; it performed a trip of twenty-nine miles in two weeks. It should have reached this place the day after it was mailed. We are a highly favored people in Oregon, and the Aspinwall Co., is multiplying our favors to the extent of its ability. Through the influence of that company our distributing office is located in California. A friend suggests, for convenience sake, that it ought to be located at Honolulu, S. I. When the contract for carrying the mail was let to this company, it was let for Oregon's sake—California was secondary in the matter. We would like to know where Oregon is now? Instead of being first, she is nowhere. We are sorry that this overgrown company cannot fill its great maw of cupidity in a single year or two. We rejoice that the contract is so near its close, and that competition is likely to produce a change in the lettings for the future.

☞ The "*Portland*," is the title of a new steam boat built by Messrs Murray and Torrance, at Portland. She is designed to run between this city and Portland. She has crossed the rapids once, but she visited our wharf during our absence, consequently we are unable to speak of her appearance. She is said to be a handsome boat.

There are built, and have been running, four steamboats above the falls, and there are three new boats on the stocks, two above the falls, and one iron steamer below. The "*Canemah Company*" is building one of these above, under the superintendence of Capt. John Moloskey, which is the second boat he has built in Oregon—he has considerable experience in the business and is a credit to Oregon enterprise—and the other is being built by the "*Willamette Falls Trading and Milling Company*," and is under the supervision of Capt. Lafave, an experienced boat builder. Both of the above are large class steamers in Oregon. The iron steamer below is being built by Messrs. Wells & Williams, the proprietors of the propeller *Eagle*. These men have had experience enough to know how to prepare for the wants of the trade. We hope their expectations will be realized, and that the rapids may be navigated by them without difficulty.

There is also being built in this city a schooner, designed, we believe, for the fishing trade below. We feel great pride in having such tidings of prosperity to spread before the public.

☞ Congress donat in 1851, (we are not certain as to the year,) to the state of California, for school purposes, 500,000 acres of land. The land in California is claimed, but in a different way from the land in Oregon. Settlers obtain their title by pre-emption. The same law that was in force in 1832 in Illinois and other western states, is the governing law in California, and persons claiming land there procure their titles in the same way precisely. Persons wishing to procure immediate titles can do so by purchasing "school warrants," which are issued for \$2 per acre. But the market value is generally about 30 per cent. less than the face. These warrants can be purchased in quarter, half and whole sections.—These are facts not generally known; we note them for the information and benefit of the reader.

☞ There is no longer any doubt as to the removal of the present Surveyor General. Private advices to that effect have been received here; but there is no official announcement of the fact in the papers. His successor is Mr. Gardiner, the chief clerk, we believe, in the post office department at Washington. And Mr. Halleck, of California, is said to be the appointee for the gubernatorial chair of Oregon. The removal of the Surveyor General does not take us by surprise, as it was an event long anticipated.

Mr. Preston, by his bland manners and spirit of accommodation, has endeared himself to every one with whom he has transacted business. He carries with him, in his retirement, the respect and confidence of all our citizens, of both political parties. He has been prepared for the removal, and is already engaged in the wholesale and retail mercantile business in this city. Success to him, we say, in his new vocation.

☞ A few showers of rain are much needed in this part of the country. Fall vegetables, such as late potatoes, cabbages, turnips, *et cetera*, are suffering much from the drought.

☞ A new road has lately been cut out from Scottsburg to the mouth. It is represented as a comparatively good road. Scottsburg is evidently looking up.

☞ On Thursday last the new steamer, built in Canemah, was launched; some 50 or 60 persons being on her at the time. There were no ladies among the number, but quite a large number were gathered together on the shore to witness the scene. The number present exceeded, by a hundred per cent., any similar occurrence that we have witnessed in Oregon. Everything appeared to be well proportioned and she glided in just as easy and as graceful as a regular water fowl. The compliment of naming the boat was assigned to Gen. A. L. Lovejoy, who, after going through with the usual ceremony pronounced it the "*Willamette*." The boat ran nearly across the river, and was towed back to her mooring by the steamer *Oregon*. The whole affair passed off very agreeably, and the people returned to their homes highly gratified.

☞ A late St. Louis Republican contains an account of the men, women, and children, and different kinds of stock that had passed Fort Laramie up to the middle of June. Report is given by one of the government officers at that post, and may be relied upon as being correct.—We make the following extract:

Men 4937, women 1000, children 2630, horses 4360, mules 1637, cattle \$1,660, wagons 2964, sheep 11,000. Capt. W. informs me that up to the end of the season, the number of stock of the different kinds mentioned, will amount to more than one hundred and fifty thousand, which does not include any that have passed on the north side of the Platte.

A number of ox-teams have arrived already, and the cattle may be said to look well. One thing is certain, it is the first season that oxen have reached here at so early a period, from across the plains.

**ATMOSPHERIC TELEGRAPH.**—It is announced in the papers that a Mr. Richardson of Boston, invented a telegraph or vehicle of transport, which is called the "*atmospheric telegraph*," and that a company has been formed to erect a line between Boston and New York. It is stated too that letters can be conveyed as speedily as business is now done by telegraph. The vehicle is a lead tube. The letter or package to be conveyed, is folded up and placed in a bag attached to a plunger, and is propelled by pressure of air. The plunger is so arranged that the air cannot pass it; no friction is created.

Concerning this project, a writer in the *St. Louis Intelligencer* remarks as follows:

Yet if Mr. Richardson will start his "*plunger*" at Boston to arrive at New York in "fifteen minutes," I wager him the cost of the "*plunger*" that he and the "*company*" will never find anything but smoke in the pipe at New York.

Some twelve or eighteen months since I noticed in the *Morgan (Ill) Journal*, a plan for the conveyance of mail matter, which struck me as much more plausible than the Boston "*plunger*." It was also to consist of a tube and atmospheric pressure, but instead of a plunger, the mail matter was to be secured in hollow metallic balls, which should neatly fit the caliber of the tube, yet free to roll. More of the plan, in detail, I cannot call to mind. I think, however, that upon this principle, a "*company*" might, if they should start a ball at Boston with less than telegraph speed, find the ball without much smoke at the terminus in New York.

☞ Major B. Alvord, U. S. Army, is ordered to construct the road "from the mouth of Myrtle Creek, Umpqua Valley, to Camp Stuart, Rogue River Valley." He accordingly left this place on the 6th inst., for the place of beginning. We are not able to state anything relative to the starting point, any further than it is in Umpqua Valley. What significance the mouth of Myrtle Creek has obtained, we are not advised. We have not heard of there being a military post established there; but we believe the law contemplates building a military road.

☞ Our merchants are preparing for a heavy fall trade; Messrs. Preston, O'Neil & Co., are about receiving a large stock of goods direct from the states.

Messrs. Miles, Cushman & Co., are now competitors for public favor, and have a good supply on hand.

Messrs. Abernethy, Clark & Co., are receiving new supplies from the Atlantic states and California, almost weekly.

Messrs. Allan, McKinlay & Co., have on hand a heavy stock.

☞ The *Marseilles Hymn*, on the first page, is said to be an excellent translation of this National Jubilate of the Europeans. It contains much of the spirit of the original, and on this account is deemed worthy of a place in our paper.

☞ The public are beginning to appreciate the good fare and accommodations to be met with at the "*Oregon House*," under its present proprietors, Messrs. Cochran & Sprenger. Their card may be found in another column.

☞ The emigrants are slowly coming in. Some with whom we have conversed are of opinion that the number on the route for Oregon is much greater than last year. The health, with few exceptions, is generally good; and the grass for stock, perhaps, has never been better. We would think as much from the appearance of the stock on arriving here, as all that we have seen were in much better condition than those noticed by us of former years. The Indians are represented as very civil. Few complaints have been uttered against them. The number of cattle and sheep is said to be large, and the owners have been quite fortunate, comparatively, in getting their stock through.

☞ One day, week before last, one of our citizens, Mr. Abel Eudy, engaged in blasting rock on the bluff, back of this city, whilst filling the hole after the charge had been put in, was very seriously injured by a premature explosion of the blast. The steel rammer ignited the powder in some way. Both eyes are nearly destroyed, if not entirely, at our present writing. We understand, he cannot see out of either, and has to be led about the streets by a little boy. And both arms are more or less injured, fortunately, no bones are broken, the flesh, however, has been torn off the left arm and considerably bruised, and the right one severely cut, but not disabled. He is a single man, and we believe, has no relatives in this country. He was an industrious and hard working man. He is certainly an object of pity.

☞ An interesting and creditable exhibition came off on Wednesday of last week, at the Female Seminary of this city, of which Mr. and Mrs. Shattuck are the principals. We were not present, but we learned that the pupils acquitted themselves handsomely. This institution is placed on a firm foundation, and we rejoice to see it in so prosperous a condition, and that the advantages of an education are being properly considered.

☞ The steam propeller, *Washington*, having been fitted up in schooner style and rigged for sea, took her departure from this place, one day last week. She is destined for the Umpqua river, where she will be used for towing vessels in and out of that river. She is owned by Allan, McKinlay & Co. If she gets around safely, she will clear herself, no doubt, in a very short time, as there is not anything of the kind there at present.

☞ The bridge over the Clackamas river, which was chartered last winter, and commenced this summer, we understand, is about to fail, after several hundred dollars have been expended in making preparations for its erection this summer. This is an improvement, much needed by the people living out east towards the mountains, and on the upper Clackamas.

☞ The new iron steamer of Messrs. Wells & Williams was launched yesterday. This is an enterprise worthy of note, and we bespeak for the owners, a profitable run when she is completed. Her dimensions and capacity will be given in full hereafter. A general invitation was extended to our citizens to be present at the launch.

☞ The culprit Parker has again set himself at liberty. The means of escape were furnished him by an outsider. The logs of the prison were "*bored off*." He has, no doubt, taken a different route from that of his former choice, viz; by way of Astoria. The sheriff of this county received notice, several days since, that he made his escape, and that he had not yet been apprehended.

☞ Mr. Buchtel, Daguerrian artist, has some beautiful specimens of pictures taken in this city. He is going to Canemah in a few days, to give the people there an opportunity to have their likenesses taken.

☞ Jos. N. Prescott has just arrived with a lot of new and seasonable goods, direct from California. We direct attention to his advertisement.

☞ That noted individual who "*alers*" chews his own tobacco and spits where he pleases, was in town a few days ago.—We may add too he is one of the b'hoys.

☞ The mail, for the States, left here on Friday of last week.

☞ Cris Taylor says he is alive and kicking, and he is bound to kick up a dust among the clock vendors. His advertisement is in another column.

☞ We tender our best acknowledgments to our brother of the Oregonian for the good wishes, expressed in his last, in our behalf. May he live a long life, and prove as useful as he appears generous.

☞ Thanks to our old friend, Mr. Daniel O'Neil, and A. Holbrook, Esq., for late papers by the last steamer from the States.

For the Oregon Spectator.

CRESCENT CITY, July 12, 1853.

**Mr. Schnebly**—Sir, Thinking it might be of some interest to the people of Oregon to know something about this place, our business and future prospects, I embody in the following nothing but facts which you may rely on.

Crescent City is situated in latitude 41 deg. 45 minutes, and about twelve miles below the mouth of Smith's river, which is three miles in California. The distance from Crescent City to Sailor diggings is forty-five miles, to Althouse fifty-two, and to Jacksonville eighty miles. Packers have made the trip to Althouse in from seven to eight days; and in that distance there is not a stretch to exceed eight miles without plenty of grass and water. It is termed a good mountain trail.

New diggings have been, and still are being discovered on the N. Fork of Smith's river, and at present there are about 100 persons engaged in working them. There is a vast amount of gold on the western slope of the Coast range of mountains. Those engaged in mining here have done remarkably well.

The population of Crescent city ranges somewhere between 1000 and 1200 persons. The town is improving rapidly, there are 31 stores, one steam sawmill, just built, and now in successful operation. The steam propeller, *Hartford*, purposes running weekly, between this place and San Francisco. Sail vessels are constantly plying, and the mail steamship *Columbia* touches every two weeks on her upward trips to the Columbia river.

The farming country east of this place, comprising an area of some 3,000 acres, is all claimed, and some advancement made in farming. The district of country above for forty miles is principally prairie land, and well adapted to farming and grazing purposes. It will be remembered that the Oregon line extends nearly to the mouth of Smith's river. Thus you see, persons desiring it could avail themselves of the Oregonian route.

Crescent City is just about three hundred and fifty miles from Oregon City. I traveled it in thirteen days. There is good anchorage here, and the harbor is well protected on all sides except on the south.

**Prices of produce, etc.**—Flour is selling at \$7 and \$7 50 per 100 lbs. Bacon is worth from 14 to 17 cents per lb.; pork 15 cents; beef is retailing at 20 and 25 cents, cowhide beef (from America) is worth 10 cents; coffee 6 lbs for a dollar, sugar (Island) 7 and 8, and Orleans 10 cents, in barrels and half barrels; crushed 12 cents. T. H. Mc—

**STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.**—On the 8th inst., the steamboat *Canemah* in ascending the river above the falls, collapsed both flues of one of her boilers. The accident occurred several miles above Rock Island. Three persons were scalded, the 1st and 2d engines; Sebastian Miller, the first, was only slightly scalded, while Marion R. Holcroft, 2d, was so badly scalded that he died the same evening; and Moses Turner an engineer, (and passenger at the time) who had been at work putting up the engines for the new steamer *Willamette*, was severely scalded, however, not so badly but that he will recover.

The steamer *Oregon*, in ascending the river an hour or so after, went to the relief of those on board and returned with them to Canemah.

As an examination has been promised by the officers of the boat, we venture no opinion as to the probable cause, and shall await the report of the committee.

We understand the "*Feenix*" takes the place of the *Canemah* in transporting the U. S. mail, that boat being hired by the company.

The damage to the boat is slight, apart from the injury to the boiler. She will be repaired immediately, to resume the U. S. mail service.

☞ It being a fixed fact that the "*Star of Empire*" has set in Oregon, and there is no chance of its taking its way further westward, we haul down the old motto and place in its stead: *Our Hope is in the Future, and Success our Firm Determination.*

☞ The *Spectator* establishment has been removed to the second story of Mr. Good's house on Main Street, and is immediately above his cabinet shop; which is situated two doors south of Mr. Hood's.

☞ The trial of Joseph Nott has resulted in his acquittal by the U. S. District Court, held at Coatsburg, Umpqua county, whither a change of venue had been previously taken.

☞ Dr. Magers says he is prepared to attend to calls from the country—a fact which he wishes the public generally to know. For further particulars see advertisement.