

# Oregon Spectator.

OREGON CITY.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1853.

## Rogue River Matters.

There are wars and rumors of wars from this quarter, but as far as we have been able to judge, there is considerably more of the latter than of the former. Pretty nearly all the latest accounts are of a doubtful character. The whole truth might be summed up in a few lines; possibly the following guess at the facts may come as near the truth as that which is given to be authentic.

In all, there have been some ten or twelve white persons killed, including those we mentioned last week. The number of Indians killed may be double that of the whites. The whites have been attacked generally in small numbers, and in most instances expectedly and from concealed places. No regular battle has yet taken place; but mutual feelings of hostility exist on both sides. The people of Yreka and other adjacent localities sympathize with the white settlers, and have volunteered effective aid in the way of munitions of war and men to use them. While on the other hand the Indians in the vicinity of Jacksonville have the cooperation of their neighboring tribes, and the probability is that every avenue of communication is waylaid, and the supplies for that quarter measurably cut off. If the quantity on hand is very limited, we fear the distress may be augmented very much from this cause. Ammunition and arms are both scarce with the whites. The Indians are well armed and have plenty of ammunition.

It will be seen by our Althouse correspondence that Judge Skinner was among the living up to the 17th August. Various other reports have been in circulation relative to the death of others. One report was to the effect that Gen. Lane had been killed, which grew, probably, out of the fact that his party were attacked at the mouth of the Canyon and two of the men killed. This much—from what we can learn—is true. He was attacked at the Canyon on the 15th, with the result as stated above.

Persons with families have been, and are still in a critical situation. In many instances driven from their homes badly frightened, and crowded together—a great deal too thick for comfort—into small houses, and even then suffering the worst kind of dread. Under such circumstances their fate is certainly to be deplored.

The Indians are revengeful, though they seem bent upon plunder more than the shedding of blood; but the whites are highly exasperated, and are determined, they say, to exterminate the race. This resolution may prove somewhat difficult to carry out. The hidden retreats of the Indians are too numerous, and difficult for the whites to rout them; and it is useless for a small party to attempt to dislodge them from their lurking places.

A general disposition appears to pervade the minds of the whites to kill all the Indians they come across. The extinction of the entire race in that region is the almost unanimous sentiment. Matters have arrived at such a degree of desperation on the part of the whites as was never before witnessed in Oregon.

Upon this subject we quote the following from the correspondence of the Alta California, dated at Crescent City, Aug. 14th:

Late arrivals from Jacksonville, Oregon, bring intelligence of great disturbances by the Indians. It is said that the Rogue river, Klamath (of the upper county) and Shastas are combined. A number of the whites have been killed and wounded, among whom are several of my own acquaintances. Mr. Thomas Wills is said to be mortally wounded; Mr. Dunn was shot in the shoulder and wrist; Mr. Rhodes Noland was killed, besides a number of others. Mr. J. Lewis had six men killed, besides a number of others. The citizens of southern Oregon, so uniformly taking sides with the poor persecuted Indians, have now an opportunity, in the kindness of their hearts, to render a peace offering to different tribes. Some of the Sons of America, believing that the blood of freemen called from the ground for vengeance, took their peace offerings in their hands and went to meet the savages. One of the first votaries offered upon the altar was Sam, one of the chiefs of the Rogue river, and brother to Jon, the head chief. He had fortified Table Rock, and with his band awaited the attack. The next onslaught was to have been made upon Joe and his warriors. Should the citizens of that lovely country allow it, the war will be terminated before the next spring.

This morning our eighteen pounder vomiting forth its volumes of fire and smoke, denoted the arrival of one of our pretty vessels from San Francisco. Before the reverberations from our rocks and shores had subsided, once more was the iron throat greeting in thunder tones the appearance of our steamer, the Hunt.

J. S. W.

## The Late Immigrants.

The early immigrants got along this season remarkably well. There was little or no sickness. The grass was plenty and good, and the dust was, comparatively, but little trouble. The situation of those still behind, we regret to learn, is quite critical. So much stock has died of late that many persons with families have had their teams so reduced that they have scarcely team sufficient to draw them along. Teams that had from four to six yoke of oxen when they left Fort Hall, many of them, when they arrived at the Umatilla, had but one and two yoke.

The stock of the rear immigrants has suffered immensely for the want of grass, which, added to the almost suffocating clouds of dust, proved, in too many instances, more than the animals could bear in their poor and jaded condition. This will prolong the trip so much for many who thought they would make a quick trip that they will run out of provisions. Thus starvation will bring on sickness and sickness death. Very few deaths are said to have occurred among the first immigrants this season. They made quicker trips, and their stock looked better than those of any former immigration.

We sincerely pity those who may have the misfortune to have been in the Cascade mountains during the rain on last Tuesday night and the following day. "The tug of war" only comes when the immigrant gets into the Cascade mountains; such is particularly the case when the arrival is late in the season, say any time after the middle of September.

Persons having friends on the road would do them a kindness to persuade them not to attempt to cross the mountains after the period we have named. They must count on their stock doing without anything to eat from the time they enter the mountains until they get through. The little grass that grows where there is a chance for stock to get to it is all fed up long before the period we have named arrives. Persons have succeeded in getting through as late as the last of September. It is also true that more stock has died in the mountains, within forty or fifty miles of this place, than, as a general thing, have died on all the rest of the road. But it would be different if the stock were in anything like as good condition at the outcome as when they commence the journey.

Many persons took the precaution, as was then thought best, to leave their stock the other side of the mountains last year. It proved a failure, as four-fifths of all the stock left there perished by reason of the deep snow that fell in the winter. It was certainly very unexpected as well as unusual. The people generally throughout Oregon were poorly provided for at the time both for man and beast. This proves that it was unusual, and as far as we have had experience, was much the severest winter we have felt since we have been in Oregon.

Those of our citizens who have friends or relatives on the road would do well to give them timely succor. Let them remember that a friend in time of need is a friend indeed. Feed for stock will be found to be much more plentiful this than last year we think; but the prices of produce and other articles of consumption will be very little less, if any, than they were at that time.

**PATRIOTIC.**—We learned a few days since that some twenty six volunteers, eager for war, had met at Salem and elected J. W. Nesmith Captain. The most of the company was raised in Marion county. They are, no doubt, by this time, pretty near the scene of action. Three cheers for Marion, if the cheer pleases.

Since publishing our first number the books relative to the erection of the Clackamas bridge have been opened and the work re-commenced in earnest. It is expected that it will be completed this fall.

Next to this in importance is the bridging of the Tualatin river on the road leading to Lafayette. It is much needed, and the settlers beyond the Tualatin have but one mind on the subject.

What a puffing there would be if this was generally known that Preston, O'Neil & Co. had received a very choice article of cigars a few days ago—shipped for private use. The several bunches we received are duly acknowledged.

We learn from the Oregonian that the lone Indian who has been in confinement at Portland for some time, on the charge of horse stealing, and who was sentenced to the penitentiary for three years, has vanished the ranch.

The communication of Philos, intended for this week's issue, came to hand too late for this number. We will cheerfully give it a place next week.

## What the Democrats Say.

We find that the murmurings against the Washington Union are not confined to the Democratic Review; but it comes from various sources. The general tone of the democratic press seems decidedly to favor the Young America doctrine. It does not stand out, however, in very bold relief as to what side of the question of Young American progression President Pierce inclines most. A writer from Washington to the Weekly Times gives some little insight into matters and things at the Capitol, in the following:—

"In our two or three last letters we informed your readers of the efforts of the President to conciliate the various factions of the party, upon purchase and sale principles, and intimated our fears that the result would not probably invite a repetition of the experiment. Recent events prove my fears not altogether unfounded, since at a State Convention of the democracy of New Hampshire, held a short time since, Hon. Edmund Burke, formerly Commissioner of the Patent Office, offered a resolution repudiating the policy of the administration in relation to appointments. The resolution was voted down, but Mr. Burke was made President of the Convention, thus virtually conceding to Mr. Burke and his friends the fact that the complaint embodied in the resolution of Mr. Burke was not altogether without foundation in truth. Thus far the trophies of our late victory have fallen into the hands of eleven hour soldiers, while outside of Oregon the 'old guard' of the democracy have been deeply neglected. We apprehend nothing to the advantage of the party from this new system of political rewards, and we reckon terribly without our host if the Senate do not in the legitimate and proper exercise of its constitutional prerogative, plow up for replanting some of the choice disunion and freeness seed, scattered over the country since the fourth of March last. Murmurings of this nature are rife in Washington, and what is more than this, the masses in the country evince a feeling of dissatisfaction even more violent than that of Senators. We shall therefore look for the rejection of more than one of the recent foreign and home appointments. This feeling of dissatisfaction is not a little augmented by a rumor that the claims of Douglas to the Presidency are, by the consent of that distinguished gentleman, and under an arrangement with the present executive, to be postponed beyond '56 in favor of Mr. Pierce. We shall look to the Democratic National Convention for a repudiation of all such bargainings. The democratic masses of the country we know to be sound, and it is there that the heart of patriotism always implicitly confides."

## The Post Office Printing.

The power behind the throne is more potent than the throne itself. We will venture a thaler that there is not a similar case on record, where the printing of the list of letters has been carried off fifty miles out of one county to another for publication. There are peculiar circumstances connected with this matter, which makes this an unheard of and unparalleled stretch of power, or exercise of privilege; it matters not by what name it is called. When we hear men loud in their professions of favor and approval of any project, we take it for granted they mean what they say;—as is particularly the case when men of respectability, or those who have some claims to it at least, are the professors. Previous to our coming here the person who acts as Post Master, said he was heart and soul in the project of having a newspaper in Oregon City. "If we cannot have exactly what we want" said he "we ought to have a paper anyhow" as much as to say, beggars were not choosers. It was mentioned to us, too, more than three weeks ago, that the list could not be furnished for the first issue, as it could not be "made out according to law" until after the 15th of August. Our paper was printed on the 19th. By the latter date another excuse was hatched up, viz: that the list could not be made out before the express left for the mines, as it would take out probably a hundred letters or more. Well, the express left, and the list of letters followed on its heels; but not exactly like the express, it called a halt at Salem. This proves one thing to us—that some men have no mind of their own, and have but little regard for their promises, and much less for the law regulating the matter. Some people have queer ideas of duty.

The State Central Democratic Convention, met in New York on the 16th, and passed resolutions approving the policy of President Pierce, and leaving Mr. Marcy out. The Barnburners finding themselves in a minority, bolted the Convention. The Hunkers then fixed upon the 13th of September for a Convention to nominate State Officers.

The Lancaster town clock was put up in 1784 at a cost of £550. Since that time the clock has been cleaned twice, and with the exception of new weight ropes, has never cost the county one cent for repairs.

The editor of the New Orleans Picayune has been shown a sample of salt taken from a salt lake near Corpus Christi, Texas. It was clear, clean, well crystallized, and of excellent taste. The supply is said to be inexhaustible.

## Letter from Brigham Young.

There is some good occasionally coming out of Nazareth. A great deal of fault has been found with Brigham Young, and denunciations have been hurled at him from many quarters, for apparent licentiousness connected with his religious beliefs. Some things are tolerated, yes, and fostered there, under the guise of religion, that are highly reprehensible. The subjoined letter, written to the St. Louis Republican, contains much advice just such as every person who meditates a trip across the plains should be in possession of, and is such information as we would impart to the best friend we have in the world. The great wonder with us is what could induce Brigham to make such revelations for the benefit of the immigrant.

Messrs. Editors:—For the benefit of the traveling public who are intending to cross the Plains the ensuing season, I have deemed that a few suggestions might be timely and profitable, which, if considered of sufficient importance, you are at liberty to publish.

Men traveling to the mines are often led by the impulse of speculation to assume duties and make engagements utterly impossible to be fulfilled, and to entertain expectations which must unavoidably fail.

They should consider before they start upon this journey, that now, if never before, will be taxed, and brought into requisition, all their forbearance, courtesy, patience, unobtrusive vigilance, untiring perseverance, and charitable feelings. Perhaps there is no one thing that will try a man in all these virtues equal to a trip with ox-teams across the Plains. It would be well therefore not to be in a hurry or get excited. No one should engage to make the trip in a certain number of days for he can know but little what hindrances may interpose, what impediments he may have to overcome. Men should be careful of their supplies, and not waste them, or consume too great a proportion, (as is too often the case) in the early part of the trip, for they are usually wanted before the journey is accomplished. Cattle should not be hurried, nor whipped. There is nothing so cruel or discouraging to animals as to be continually lashing them with the whip; it will cause them to give out and die upon the route. Great kindness should always be shown and exercised toward animals—hunting out the best places for them to feed, and keeping them on it; for they would when tired, rather do without eating, than to hunt for feed; and they should also have plenty of time to rest.

Arriving among Indians, it is sometimes the case, that emigrants shoot at them without cause. They should always be treated with kindness, but no opportunity should be given for them to steal. Give them provisions and clothing if you have it to spare, and let them go away in peace. If you trade with them, do so upon fair terms, giving them a just equivalent for their property. Always be on your guard against surprise; and to enable you to do this, a sufficient number should join together, that guard duty may not become too burdensome, for you might better have no guard than one that will slumber upon his post.

If you take Salt Lake in your route, you can procure many articles there much cheaper than to haul them. Groceries, and all kinds of fitting up, are expensive; but flour, as good as can be purchased in the States, can be had in any quantity, at a price not exceeding from 6 to 10 per hundred, and was sold last year as low as 25 and 30. Vegetables can generally be obtained, but all kinds of meat are scarce, and range, beef from 8 to 12 cents, and pork from 20 to 25 cents per pound. Exchanges of property are frequently made, much to the benefit of the traveler, and when stock has recruited, also the benefit of the citizens; but it is far the most economical for the emigrant to take such care of his stock, that by resting a few days, will enable him to keep his own, as usually those that are exchanged fall in to the hands of speculators, who are seeking for the best bargains.

It has sometimes been the practice to change the mode of travel at this point, and dispose of all the heavy baggage wagons, &c., and proceed from this point with pack animals. This sometimes expedites the traveler; but unless he is too late to recruit his stock, and then arrive at the Sierra Nevada before snow, it is accomplished at considerable sacrifice as wagons at this place are sold at a loss, and in California, command a fair profit.

In traveling through the settlements, if you should wish to carry any length of time, it is best for you first to get a good location for your stock, in good feed, at a distance from the fields, and leaving them in the care of a good herdsman, who should be made responsible for them. You can repair to the city or settlement where you wish to stay, but some one of the company should frequently look after the animals, as they are likely to stray from the herdsman, and oft times by a little care difficulty is avoided. Much feed is often destroyed in consequence of fire being left at camps, catching in the grass and burning it up; and some have even been so destitute of consideration, as purposely to set it on fire. Great care should be taken to put out your fires upon breaking up camp, for it proves very injurious for such as travel the same route after you especially at the camping places, to find no feed. It occurs often enough by being eaten, without its being wantonly burned.

At all of the large streams, and some of the small ones, you will find farmers and traders, anxious to exchange stock; these last you will find also at different

points along the route, ready to take advantage of any circumstance which may chance to throw a good bargain in their way; for be it known, that this is their business, and the motive that has brought them there. Emigrants may doubtless avail themselves beneficially of the opportunity thus afforded to exchange stock; but let all be on their guard in trading, lest they get put upon them stock which, although looking a little better than their own, from being recruited a few days, yet have just been left (perhaps having given out) by others who have proceeded them, and will again soon give out when put upon the road.

These are the particular items to which I am anxious to direct the attention of the traveler, as they are generally left out of those directions found in the public journals giving information upon crossing the Plains, though full and concise upon other points, and having expressed them, close wishing that all the seekers after gold may find and obtain the abundance of their heart's desire. BRIGHAM YOUNG.

Salt Lake City, March 9, 1853.

**BALANCE DOCK.**—Mr. Wm. H. Webb has just commenced the construction of a balance, of a sufficient power to raise with ease the largest steamship or man of war, with all their coal, cargo and armament on board. The actual lifting power will not be less than 8,000 tons. This dock is to be built for the New York Balance Dock Company, who now have their works at the foot of Rutgers street at a cost of about \$150,000. The dock is to be built at Williamsburg, and is to be finished next winter. Its dimensions will be as follows:—Length, 375 feet; breadth, 92 feet and depth 38 feet. It will be built of plank and timber strengthened by an immense trussed frame. In point of size, it will far exceed any thing of the kind yet built in the United States.—*N. Y. Express.*

**27 A Day.**—The Salary of Governor Bigler is ten thousand dollars per annum, which is over twenty seven dollars a day. This per diem allowance he is paid by the people while going about the State electing themselves to get himself re-elected. Would it not be much more in keeping with the Democracy which he professes, to attend to the duties of his office? Is it the intention of the people, when they elect any man to office, that he shall spend their time and money in going around the country electing himself for re-election? Gov. Bigler is well known to the people by his official acts, and by them they will judge him, and pronounce their verdict through the ballot box.—*Pacerville (Cal.) Republican.*

**PUBLIC PRINTING.**—A statement of the expenses of printing for the State, during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1853, copied from the Treasurer's books, and duly certified by the proper officer, has been published by the Union and other papers. The figures show that the enormous sum of \$218,547.06 has been squandered on the friends of the present Executive, on the pretense of printing furnished the State. One item alone—the census returns, cost the State \$35,000. The work, we know, was executed by a job office in San Francisco, and it is stated they received less than \$1,000 for it. We should like to know what the Governor has to say on this subject, for he did not allude to it in his speech at the Hill, and several items are marked, "per order of the Governor."—*Calaveras Chronicle.*

**MORE EXTRAORDINARY STEALS.**—LATELY MELON YET PRODUCED IN CALIFORNIA!—Since perusing the foregoing remarks relating to the extraordinary growth of tomatoes, Messrs. McNeill & Co. have brought into our office a mammoth water melon, raised on Cache creek, in Yuba county, by Mr. W. J. Hawkins weighing the almost incredible amount of fifty three pounds and a half!

This, we are informed, is the largest melon ever raised in California—at least so far as information has obtained in this neighborhood, and could it be preserved for the purpose, would constitute a rare specimen to be forwarded to the World's Fair.—*Sacramento Union.*

**RESTITUTION.**—The Washington correspondent (N. Y.) Post says a chap in a certain village, with whom he is acquainted, having had sanded sugar sold to him inserted in the weekly paper the following:

"Notice.—I purchased of a grocer in this village a quantity of sugar, from which I obtained one pound of sando. If the raschel who cheated me will send to my address seven pounds of good sugar, (scripture measure of restitution,) I will be satisfied; if not, I shall expose him."

On the following day nine pound packages of sugar were left at his residence, from as many different dealers, each supposing himself the person intended.

The first number of a new publication, called the "Democratic Monthly Review," was issued a few days ago at Washington—W. H. Lewis & Co., publishers; Ovid F. Johnson, editor. The Union commends it on account of the "well known ability, strong American feeling, and progressive spirit of the editor," &c., &c. If the editor will devote six pages a month for the first year to a faithful history of his own life, the success of the magazine will be secured beyond a contingency. His adventures as a filibuster captain on the Rio Grande would alone justify a volume.—*Chicago Dem.*

Charles R. Mason of Providence has been appointed Secretary of State of the Territory of Washington. This is an excellent appointment for a capable and enterprising young man, and is worthily bestowed.—*Proc. Jour.*

## From the Oregon Spectator.

**From the Times.**  
Mr. Horton—As it may be of some interest to you to learn what is being done there, and what effect the disturbances in Rogue river have had in that part of the country, I would say that as respects the reports about the Indians having banded together to the extent that has been represented, it is not true, as far as that place is concerned. The miners continued at work without any interruption from the cause named.

True, some alarm has been spread through that portion of the country, and some concern is manifested for the fate of those residing in Rogue river valley, because of the outbreaks there by the Indians, who, we have been informed, have annoyed the isolated settlers, killed some and destroyed some property, and driven off a number of stock. But the extent of the depredations is a good deal magnified. Some families have left their houses, and with their stock have gone to the Umpqua valley; others have moved to Jacksonville. A large company had arrived a few days previous to the 17th, from Yreka, at Jacksonville, to protect that place.

I met Gen. Lane on the 19th August. He was to have passed through the Canyon on that day. Subsequently, on my road down here, I learned that in attempting to go through that day he was repulsed by the Indians with the loss of two men. This was the rumor.

The merchants at Jacksonville and Appleton creek have suspended operations entirely, in fact all kinds of business has been greatly interrupted. The report as to the death of Judge Skinner is not true, unless it occurred since the 17th. My advisers do not come down later than that.

The miners at Althouse have been doing very well, better, perhaps, than at any former period. As to my own luck, I have no reason to complain. I have made out well, and am satisfied with what I have done. A short time since Moore & Co. took out a chunk that weighed 60 ounces, which, at \$104 per ounce, would amount to \$6,240. It has been quite healthy.

Provisions have been advancing in price. Flour, when I left, was selling at 48 and 50c per barrel at 40 and 45, beef 20 and 25, potatoes 15 and 20, onions 35 and 40, and butter 75 and \$1.00. These were the retail prices on the 10th August.

Yours truly, J. W. K.

**READING CLUB.**—The Washington Union in reading the prominent papers out of the party, a few days since, gravely remarks as follows:

"We wash our hands of all further connection or association with these journals, we treat them as standing as clearly without the pale of the Democratic party as the New York Tribune, or the National Era."

Whereupon the Tribune insinuates that "washing hands is a very proper proceeding on the part of such patriots as control the Union." We suggest that they wash them where the washings will fall back into the Treasury, where they belong.

"We wish," says the Presbyterian Quarterly Review, "that Mr. Dickens could be persuaded for once, if only for the sake of variety and truth to nature, to become acquainted with one decent minister of any denomination, and give us his portrait as an offset to the disgusting hypocrites he delights to paint. Is there no such thing as an honest man in England preaching the Gospel?"

**LOLA MONTEZ.**—A correspondent of a Massachusetts (Cal.) paper says of this notable Lola Montez she has become a resident of Grass Valley. She has purchased a house, and it is her present intention to settle here. She is making friends by her good nature and amiability, and no one knows how to be agreeable better than she.

**ILLUSTRATION OF THE EXHIBITION.**—One hundred and eighty-seven different articles will be contributed by relation to the New York Crystal Palace exhibition. A large number of these consist of works of art and fancy. The collection is the result of the efforts of a single individual.

The State Library at Albany, N. Y., has come in possession of the treasonable correspondence found concealed in Major Andre's boots at the time of his capture, and also the pass from Gen. Arnold, under which Andre, as "Mr. John Smith," was traveling.

The Quebec Chronicle notices that tenders are wanted for the opening and permanently defining a navigable channel throughout the whole of the rapids of the St. Lawrence, from Prescott to Montreal; such channel to be not less than 200 feet in width.

The Philadelphia Inquirer says that one or two strawberries, eaten in the morning, will cleanse the mouth delightfully; and if applied with a brush to the teeth will remove the tartar more effectually than any dentifrice ever invented, and give a delicious fragrance to the breath.

Hon. John Walton has been appointed Deputy Collector of San Francisco, California.