

W.M.J. BEGGS, EDITORS. G.D.R. HOYD.

AGENTS:

The following named persons are authorized to receive subscriptions and advertisements for the Gazette, and receipt for the same:

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Removal.—The office of the Umpqua Weekly Gazette has been removed to Hinderer's Buildings, Main street, in the rear of Messrs. Wadsworth, Peters & Ladd's store. We have made this change in our place of business in order to accommodate the majority of our patrons. Dec. 23, 1854.

Henry Hale, esq. is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertising in San Francisco. He will be found at his office, 96 Battery street, corner Clay.

A New Year.

What is a year? 'Tis but a wave On life's dark rolling stream, Which is so quickly gone that we account it but a dream. 'Tis but a single earnest throb Of Time's old iron heart, Which tireless now and strong as when It first with life did start. What is a year? 'Tis but a turn Of Time's old brazen wheel— Or but a page upon the book Which death must shortly seal. 'Tis but a step upon the road Which we must travel o'er, A few more steps and we shall walk, Life's weary road no more.

Kind patrons! ere another issue of the GAZETTE reaches you, another year will have been numbered with the irrevocable past, and you will have entered upon a NEW YEAR—1855. It is well for individuals and communities, occasionally to pause—for a time relinquish their contentious wranglings upon the world's stage—dispende for a day with "busy care," and "make a note of passing time," and also of passing events,—to look about us and observe how the world is progressing, as well as our own individual interest. Situated as we are in Oregon, thousands of miles from our native homes, and many, very many, from all those they hold most dear—the greetings of "A Happy New-Year," fills the minds of many with anything but pleasant reflections. Associations, that according to the nature of things in this transitory world, cannot always be enjoyed—familiar scenes that occurred many years since, come crowding on the mind. Those "good old times" that were, when sleigh-bells jingled, and the harmless merry joke passed round, and maidens laugh rang joyously on the cool and freshening breeze, and "all went merry as a marriage bell;" and then, the "eve,"—when "youth and pleasure met, to greet the hours with glowing feet." These and other reflections are calculated to cast a gloom upon the minds of many who have fixed their homes in the wilds of the far distant west. And

"We are growing old—how the thought will rise When a glance is backward cast On some long remembered spot, that lies In the silence of the past: It may be the shrine of our early vows, Or the tomb of early tears; But it seems like a far off isle to us, In the stormy sea of years."

Eventful '54! volumes could not contain the record of the varied scenes that have been played in thy short reign. Wars, insurrections, casualties, mobs and politics! have filled the exciting programmes that have been laid before us week after week. There was a time when publishers could place before their readers on "New Year," every thing that had occurred the previous twelve months; but the time has past, at least in America, altogether too much progression for that—impossible!

Another year has fled! What have we all accomplished! Let us ask ourselves if we have done any great good for ourselves or our fellow man. Happy the man and the woman who can say that they improved the time so mercifully given them for the happiness of their fellow beings—for the relief of the destitute; that they have made easy the pillow of the sick and the afflicted; that they have improved the moments in gaining wisdom for themselves and making

those happy who are their companions through life. In our reflections on the past if we find that our actions have been different, the best thing we can do is to "turn over a new leaf" on the first day of January, 1855. Suppose we try it.

Respected patrons! It is not necessary to inform you that the GAZETTE is in a flourishing condition; you all know that; and that you might as well try to make the Umpqua run up stream, as to stop its regular publication every week. But it is essentially necessary for us to impart to you some valuable information, an idea "which has just struck us," (hit us on the pocket.) Do you want to enjoy good health? sweet sleep and pleasant dreams? A conscience free and easy? Prosper in this life, and gain an interest in the world to come? If you do follow our advice. You that take our paper come forward and pay your subscription, if you have the most distant idea that you have not done so; and you that don't take it, come forward and subscribe and pay for it in advance. By doing this you will receive a passport to—some better world, perhaps.

WRECK OF THE BRIG JUNA AT COOS BAY.—The brig Juna went ashore at Coos Bay on the 18th inst. She was a total loss. We understand that she had scarcely any freight on board. No lives were lost. Another brig, the William Penn, was following her in, but as soon as the Juna struck, she put back, and has not been seen since. It is supposed she went back to San Francisco. We are sorry that this accident has occurred, as these vessels were to commence the transportation of the coal of which Coos has such inexhaustible supplies. Her citizens will not however, relinquish their enterprise with this slight accident, as Coos undoubtedly possesses a good harbor and is practicable of entrance.

FOUND AT LAST.—It will be seen by reference to appropriate columns that the merchants and others of Scottsburg have found the "philosophers stone" of business men—ADVERTISING. Read "new advertisements;" and then rest assured that those men who advertise liberally, want to do business, and will sell you goods cheaper than any one else. We are confident that we will hear no talk of "hard times" this winter, as the regular trips of the Southerner will keep our merchants well supplied, while a good road to the interior, gives us increased facilities for furnishing the miners with everything they require at rates which no other place can compete with. Pack trains are already beginning to fill our streets.

DROWNED.—The mail carrier between this place and Yoncalla, had his horse drowned on his trip last Monday, in a small stream which empties into the Elk, called "Tom Folly's Creek." When he arrived at the creek it was so swollen from the recent heavy rains that he thought it unsafe to attempt to ride through it with the mails. So he carried them across by walking on a log over the stream, and then went back and attempted to drive his horse over—and immediately on getting him into the stream, he washed down at so rapid a rate that it was impossible to keep sight of him, says our informant.

By reference to advertisement it will be seen that our friend Craise has opened a new House at Rosalia, opposite Gardiner, and is engaged in cutting a trail through from Winchester Bay to his place, a distance of three miles, which will save travellers from Coos Bay, and other places down the coast, the trouble and additional expense of crossing the Umpqua at the mouth.

The editorial correspondence on our first page, should have appeared two weeks since, but owing to the present mail arrangement between this place and the upper part of the valley, it was not received until too late for publication the 23rd inst.

The gentlemanly captain and owners of the steamer Excelsior have placed us under many obligations of late, for favors bestowed upon this office. May they live an hundred years, and their "shadows never grow less."

A new Post Office has been created at Cow Creek, Douglass county, called Yalesville, and George F. Hall appointed Postmaster.

Wm. J. BEGGS, Esq., of this paper is still absent.

Patents to Lands in Oregon.

The following letter, which has been sent to the editor of the Statesman, shows why it is, that the people of Oregon have not received patents to their lands, after fulfilling the requirements of the law. It seems that the blame rests upon Mr. Preston, the former Surveyor-General, as has been repeatedly charged against that gentleman:—

GENERAL LAND OFFICE, ) Oct. 30, 1854. )

SIR:—In answer to your inquiry of the 24th inst., as to the cause of the delay in issuing patents for the donation claims in Oregon, I have the honor to state:

That by the instructions of 10th March, 1851, from this office to the surveyor-general of Oregon, that officer was directed as follows: "When the tract is described by metes and bounds, a special plat of the lot is to accompany the certificate; and with it you will also transmit the original title papers, retaining copies in 'your office.'"

On examining the act of the 27th Sept., 1850, the necessity and propriety of those instructions will be perceived, and that without the special plats thus required there would have been no certainty that the same lands, in part at least, was not included in different patents. Such conflicts of title would have been a source of unceasing and harassing litigation, and the patents, under such circumstances, would have been a positive evil, instead of a benefit. This course was necessary, moreover, to enable this office to determine whether the requirement of the 6th section of the act had been complied with, which directed that these claims should be taken as nearly as practicable, by legal subdivisions.

These were the instructions under which the surveyor-general was required to act, and the reasons in part, for those instructions. With a letter of 10th October, 1853, he sent on seventy of these claims, numbered from 1 to 70, being those for which certificates had been issued by him from the 1st July to the 30th September, 1853.

These were received when the duties of the office were so pressing in preparing for the session of Congress as to leave no time for taking them out of their regular course of examination. This pressure continued, as you are aware, and it was not till early in May, that the necessary time could be given to their adjudication. It was then ascertained that these instructions had been entirely disregarded, and the cases were returned on the 17th of that month, that those instructions might be complied with, except as to some which were rejected for interferences with town sites, or because they had been issued to persons who died before the passage of the act, and a very few which it was thought might be passed, as the lands in them are described by subdivisions of sections.

On the 20th May, 1854, a second abstract was received from the surveyor general, of the claims for which certificates had been issued by him between the 30th September, 1853, and 31st March, 1854, numbered from 71 to 145. These claims were found to be in the same condition with the foregoing, and were returned with similar exceptions, for like causes. Of the whole number thus returned by the surveyor-general, only about twenty can be carried into patent. Of the reasons why this was not done at once in these cases, I am not able to advise you, as the gentleman who had charge of this branch of business is dead. It is probable he thought it advisable to withhold them till the return of the others, that they might all be issued together. I have no doubt, however, that his reasons were sound, as he was a most able and efficient officer. I have directed the patents to be issued in these cases, however, and they will be transmitted in a few days, and you advised of the fact.

It has been intimated, that words used in the instructions above referred to, relative to the receipt, and temporary arrangement of the claims, justified the withholding of the original proof. The copies would have answered equally well, if the special plats of the surveys had been transmitted in those cases where the lands were described by courses and distances, and hence the claims described by the subdivision of sections were not returned.

These plats, however, were indispensably necessary, and the failing to send them was a disregard by the surveyor-general of the specific instructions above quoted, which is much regretted, as it has been the chief, and indeed the only cause, of the delay in issuing the patents.

I am, sir, with great respect, Your obedient servant, JOHN WILSON, Commissioner. Hon. Joseph Lane, Washington, D. C.

The Legislature of Washington Territory organized on the 4th inst. by the election of the following officers:

- President of the Council, Seth Catlin. Chief Clerk, Butler P. Anderson. Assistant Clerk, A. J. Moses, Sergeant at Arms, J. L. Mitchell. Door Keeper, Mr. Cullison. Speaker of the House, Henry R. Crosbie. Chief Clerk, B. F. Kendall. Assistant Clerk, R. M. Walker. Sergeant at Arms, Milton Mounds. Door Keeper, Wm. Bailey.

The Pioneer & Democrat pays a high and just compliment to the President of the Council and Speaker of the House.

Letter from Gen. Lane.

WASHINGTON CITY, ) Oct. 20th, 1854. )

EDITOR STATESMAN—Dear Sir:—I must confess that I am both surprised and pained to hear that there is, among the democrats, dissatisfaction and complaining of my official acts. Why, or how this can be, I am at a loss to understand; for, God knows that my strongest earthly desire is to faithfully and honestly discharge my duty to the people I represent, and in such a manner as is best calculated to promote their interests. For the promotion of this great object, I have labored faithfully and honestly. In what have I failed or erred?

Now, sir, I desire the democracy to know that I am a candidate for re-nomination, and that I only wish success, if they think me honest, capable, faithful and true.—And further, I desire them to know that I will not resort to any dishonorable means, in any shape, form or manner; nor will I do anything to disturb, distract or divide the democratic party: nor will I backbite, slander or detract from the merits of any man, for the sake of place. I will never attempt to pull down a fellow-democrat, that I may raise myself on his downfall. I will not have the office on any such terms. I am a democrat, and honestly believe that democratic principles are the true principles of our government, and our party is held together by principle, and he that would set up his will in opposition to the wish of the party, is not worthy the confidence of the party, or he who would attempt to build himself up by slandering or injuring an honorable member of that great party, is unworthy of their support. Our motto should be, "the union of the party for the sake of our country."

As above stated, I am a candidate for re-nomination. I submit my official acts to the judgment of a candid and impartial people. By them I am willing to be tried.

If it can be shown that I have in any way—in any single instance—neglected my duty, or that any one of my official acts has proved detrimental to the interests of the territory; if I have not labored assiduously, faithfully; if the public interests or private interests have suffered in my hands, I am ready to yield the field to some other aspirant. But let justice be done; let time be afforded me to render an account of my stewardship. For this purpose, I ask that no nomination be made, until I can have time to return home. This boon will not be refused by a generous people to a public servant, who has nearest his heart the honor and well-being of those he represents. And no democrat, or the friends of any who seek a nomination, and are willing that his claims and merits should be discussed, can reasonably urge objections to this request.—With much respect,

Your old servant JOSEPH LANE.

Correspondence of the Weekly Gazette.

SALEM, O. T., Dec. 18, 1854.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Nothing of interest has occurred at the Capitol, since my last. Two bills have been introduced into the House of Representatives by Delazon Smith, of Linn county, which has created lengthy and animated discussion, by Messrs. Smith, Henry, Holmes, Logan, and others. One was for organizing townships and creating separate officers for the same, for the different counties throughout the Territory, that wish it. The other was for substituting the viva voce system of voting, for the present mode. The township bill was lost in the House. The vote will be taken on the viva voce bill about Thursday next. Several road bills have been passed, and other business transacted which will prove uninteresting to your readers. Mr. Logan has made his appearance in the House. The re-location of the Public Buildings will be agitated soon, without a doubt. I should not be surprised if the Capitol goes to Winchester, and the university to Jacksonville, as they should. Members are beginning to talk the matter over seriously. Corvallis nor Eugene City, neither can compete with Winchester for the location of the Capitol. I think if it is not removed to Winchester it will remain where it is.

Yours, FELIX.

PERPETUAL MOTION.—The discovery of a new perpetual motion is announced at New York. It is on the plan of arms and balls attached to a cylinder, so as to keep the greatest weight always on the descending side. It requires no starting, only needs letting loose and off it goes. The difficulty is to stop it. The Journal of Commerce says:

"After a careful examination we can safely say, in all seriousness, that the propelling power is self-contained and self-adjusting, and gives a sufficiently active force to carry ordinary clock work, and all without winding up or replenishing."

Adam R. Shipley has been appointed Postmaster in this city in place of Alonzo Lealand, resigned. Mr. Shipley has for some months past acted as a deputy in the Post Office in this city, and so far as we have learned, given good evidence of his faithfulness and capacity to perform well the duties of Postmaster.—Standard.

MURDER OF A MISSIONARY'S WIFE.—Letters from the Selkirk Settlement, state that Mrs. Spencer, wife of one of the American missionaries, was shot dead while in bed with her husband and child, at Pembina, Minnesota Territory. The deed is imputed to a Sioux Indian.

TUNNEL UNDER THE OHIO RIVER.—The Louisville Journal has an article on the prospects and feasibility of the construction of a tunnel under the Ohio river at Louisville, Kentucky, and Jeffersonville, Ia. A charter for this work was granted by the Kentucky Legislature, March 6, 1854, and the right of way given by the city of Louisville, and the work forever exempted from taxation for city purposes, on the 27th of May, 1854. The Fort Wayne and Southern Railway Company have accepted the charter and the release of the right of way, and propose making up the stock, and, if possible, to put the work under contract this fall or early next spring. The tunnel will be exclusively for railway purposes, with a double track, adapted to the use of all the roads of the different gauges. It will be twenty-eight feet wide in the clear, and seventeen feet high, perpendicularly, from the centre of each track. The arching will be sixty feet less than two miles in length. The descending grade into the tunnel, at either end, will be only eighty feet per mile on a straight line. From the head of the grade on one side to the head of the grade on the opposite side of the river will be two miles and a half. The tunnel will be constructed in the river by excavating a channel or pit in the rock, and arching over with the material excavated—limestone rock of the best quality. The work has been surveyed, and the cost estimated at one million two hundred thousand dollars. It is proposed to raise this sum by a cash subscription, no part of which is made payable until the whole sum is subscribed. Whenever all the stock is taken, then it becomes payable in four equal semi-annual instalments.

ABOLITION RIOT AT WORCESTER, MASS.—Worcester, Oct. 30.—Asa O. Batman, the person who arrested the fugitive slaves, Thomas Sinix and Anthony Burns, was discovered at the American House yesterday, and the fact was immediately posted throughout the city. In the evening the vigilance committee of the citizens surrounded the hotel, and threatened to mob it, whereupon warrants were issued, and he was arrested this morning and brought before the court charged with carrying concealed weapons. The case was then postponed for two weeks, and he was required to give bonds for his appearance.

A large and excited crowd soon gathered round the courthouse, and it becoming evident that his life was in danger, George F. Hoar, (a free-soiler,) the son of the venerable Samuel Hoar, appealed to the crowd to let the "kidnapper," as they called him, go safely out of the city. Upon this the crowd gave way, and Batman, accompanied by a strong guard, went to the depot, followed by the populace. Here the colored men in the mob fell upon him, and would undoubtedly have taken his life but for the interference of Martin Stowell, James A. Howland, Mr. Hoar, Rev. T. W. Higginson and Stephen C. Foster, all active abolitionists.

In the midst of the excitement Batman was hustled into a carriage, accompanied by Mr. Higginson, and thus escaped with his life.

Higginson was considerably cut by the missiles thrown at the carriage. Batman was pelted with rotten eggs, stones, &c., and was kicked and beaten almost to death. He promised to never visit Worcester again.

COLONEL ASPINWALL.—Among the passengers by the Pacific are Col. Thomas Aspinwall, our late Consul General at London, and his lady, who stop at the Astor House.

At the commencement of the war of 1812, Mr. Aspinwall was a practising member of the Boston bar. He left his profession and was efficiently engaged in raising a regiment of volunteers, in which he was commissioned as major. He was engaged in some of the hardest-fought battles on the Canada lines. At the sortie of Fort Erie he lost his right arm. His conduct as an officer was highly esteemed, and he was promoted to a colonelcy. At the close of the war he resigned his commission in the army, and in 1815 he was appointed Consul General of the United States at London by President Madison, which office he held for the period of thirty-eight years. Col. Aspinwall left this country thirty-nine years ago to take upon himself the duties of Consul, and has only visited his native country once in that time, eighteen years ago.

The amiable qualities of Col. Aspinwall's personal character have acquired him a host of friends. He was greatly esteemed by his countrymen who had occasion to visit London while he held the post of American Consul in that city. If our country loses a good consul abroad, it gains an estimable citizen at home.—N. Y. Evening Post.

INDIAN HOSTILITIES.—Rumors are afloat in town that the whites have killed a Cayuse Indian, above the Cascades and Dalles, and that the Indians about the Cascades and Dalles together with the Cayuse and Snakes are evincing hostilities to the whites. Much alarm is felt for the safety of the whites at the Dalles. The troops at Vancouver are ordered to go there as soon as possible.—Portland Standard.

Henry Ward Beecher says that the last quarter of an hour of a long drawn tiresome discourse, gives a repulsiveness to religious truth, stronger than can be dissipated by two good sermons afterwards.