

Complimentary Letter.

On his departure from this port on the 18th inst., Capt. James Linskill, commander of the British ship Prince Amadeo, sent the following letter back to Capt. Flavel by the pilot:

Ship "Prince Amadeo," Out side of Columbia Bar, 5:20, March 15, 1878. Capt. Flavel, Astoria: DEAR SIR:—I am very happy to say that we got out exceedingly well. I have farther to say that the pilot, Mr. Staples, and the tugs did their duties splendidly; I am highly satisfied with the way they managed with this deep draught ship. I do not think it could have been done better by any one, if as well. Please accept of my very best thanks for the kindly manner in which I have been treated by you and those in your employ. I will always remember it, though far distant.

I am, yours most respectfully, JAMES LINSKILL. The Prince Amadeo went to sea drawing 23 feet two inches of water. There is nothing strange that Capt. Flavel should receive such a letter as that from Capt. Linskill, when it is known that Capt. Linskill is a shipmaster, in every sense of the word. A true gentleman, looking out for the interests of the company by whom he is employed, he took everything for the best, during his long detention in Portland, and passed through a most vexatious period without once losing control of himself, thereby saving to his owners every particle of advantage to come from strict interpretation of the charter-party. Doing all this he attended closely to his own affairs, trusting to the honor of others with whom he had business, as in the case with Capt. Flavel, and found that he can in future successfully refute all scandals as to grossness with respect to pilotage and towage on the Columbia river bar. As a general thing, if English shipmasters visiting this port would pay more strict attention to their own affairs, and listen less to scandal, they would prove themselves men, and fare far better in the long run.

—When one trick fails, says the Bee, John Chinaman always finds another equal if not better. It has now become a trick of the Chinese washerman to retain some new and valuable piece of wash and return some old and faded one in place, and often none at all, and when asked for the same will get highly indignant and disclaim any knowledge of the article, and in their peculiar style say: "Me no steele, me heep good washe man," or "me no sabe," and in this way frequently get away with some very fine linen, especially when they have to deal with some timid housewife whose husband's attention is occupied in his business and cannot look after John. After these heathens have accumulated a sufficient number of such articles they take them to a Chinese pawnbroker shop and dispose of them, and they are then shipped to California or into the interior for disposal. We have just learned of a poor cotemporary who has lately been made the victim in this way to no little extent. He wants no more Chinese washermen for him. He says it would be cheaper to stay at home and do it himself.

—The Oregon city Enterprise endorses the opinion expressed by the Standard, in reference to the murder of Mrs. Hager, that "when the mystery is solved how many will be amazed." It is impossible to close our ears to the many rumors that float the air; rumors, that were given birth to when the first news of the dreadful tragedy became known, and which survived all others, and remain to-day the only ones that give a plausible solution to the mystery. Circumstantial evidence has not the same footing in this country, as it has in England; otherwise, the Enterprise says, "this matter would have been sifted in a direction as yet untouched. Far, be it from us to cast any imputations upon innocent parties, but we cannot remain silent on a subject of so much importance to the public."

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The Assessment Laws.

For the benefit of all whom it may concern we quote the following abstract from the assessment laws of Oregon. Great complaint is made, year after year, because certain taxes are not collected. The duty of the people is clearly as important in this respect as the duties of the assessor.

The assessor shall qualify by taking the oath of office, and giving a good and sufficient bond of \$5,000 for the performance of his duty, as prescribed by law. And shall enter upon that duty the first Monday in March. And the following is how property is to be assessed, and the duty of the assessor, and the requirement of the laws:

SEC. 18. It shall be the duty of every assessor to swear every person subject to taxation, to give a true account of their property, according to the best of their knowledge and belief, etc.

SEC. 28. Every assessor shall require any person liable to be taxed in his county, to furnish him a list of his real estate in his county, liable to taxation, and a list of all his personal property liable to taxation, in this state, and shall require such person to make oath that to the best of his knowledge and belief, such list contains a true and full account of all his property, liable to be taxed in such county. And if any person shall refuse to furnish such list, or swear to the same, when required so to do by the assessor, such person shall forfeit and pay to the assessor, for the use of the county, the sum of \$20, which sum may be recovered by motion in any court having jurisdiction of matters of debt or contract, to the amount of \$20.

SEC. 102. The assessor shall require every person to pay his poll taxes of every kind at the time of assessing the same, and in default of such payment the assessor shall immediately give to the sheriff a list of such poll taxes, and the sheriff shall immediately collect the same, by sale of personal property, or in the mode directed in the preceding section. And when any personal property, or any other personal estate, shall be assessed to any person who is not a permanent resident of the county, or who is about to remove his property, or depart therefrom, the assessor shall demand immediate payment of the taxes thereon, at the same rate per centum as the preceding year's taxes, and in default of such payment he shall immediately collect the same in the manner aforesaid; and the assessor shall note on the assessment roll all the poll and other taxes so given to the sheriff for collection, and the sheriff shall pay over and account for the same as the other taxes.

SEC. 104. Whenever any personal property upon which the current year's taxes have not been paid is about to be removed out of the state, it shall be the duty of either the sheriff or the assessor forthwith to collect such tax, and if the same has not been assessed, then to assess and to collect the same, at the rate of the preceding year's taxes. All real and personal property shall be assessed at its true cash value, except what is exempt by special law. House-holders are exempt for personal property, selected by them, to the amount of \$300.

SEC. 16. It shall be the duty of the assessor to deduct the amount of indebtedness, within this state, of any person assessed, from the amount of his or her taxable property, given under oath.

SEC. 116. Any person assessed for any year may demand of the assessor an official certificate of that fact, and upon his refusal to deliver the same, he shall be fined in the sum of \$100, to be collected by the person demanding the same, in an action in the name of the party injured, before any justice of the peace in said county.

SEC. 5. (Approved Oct. 21, 1876.) A poll tax of \$1 shall be assessed upon every male inhabitant of this state, between the ages of 21 and 50 years, except all active or exempt firemen, who have been members of any company for a period of one year preceding the assessment of taxes, which tax shall be collected and used for county purposes.

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