

# THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE.

JOHN E. WILLIAMS & ROBERT H. MILLER,

"Willing to Praise but not Afraid to Blame."

PROPRIETORS.

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## WEEKLY TRIBUNE.

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### THE OREGON SETTLEMENT.

When the Senate of the United States changed the phraseology of the resolution giving "notice" to Great Britain of the termination of the treaty of joint occupation, notwithstanding the vehemence and earnestness with which that change was opposed by the 54 old men, with the countenance of the Administration, it was gravely contended by the journals devoted to its support that it was altogether a matter of "form." The whigs, on the contrary affirmed, that, while a resolution giving notice in unqualified terms might be construed offensively and consequently prevent a renewal of the suspended negotiation, the accompanying of that notice with the expression of a desire to adjust the controversy peaceably, might on the other hand, and probably would, be regarded by the British Government as an invitation to take the initiative in the renewal of the negotiation in a spirit of fair and honorable compromise. The result proved the sagacity of the Whig statesmen, and of that portion of the Administration party who co-operated with them. Sir Robert Peel, in his valedictory speech, expressly states that the language of the resolution, declaring emphatically that the notice was given "in order that it might facilitate an amicable adjustment of the dispute," had the effect of "removing any barrier to a renewal by either country of the attempt to settle this difference." While, on the other hand, if the notice had been given in the naked form in which it passed the House of Representatives, and without the qualifying phrase so pertinaciously and happily so successfully insisted upon by the Senate, so far from facilitating the peaceful termination of the controversy, it "might have been considered of an unsatisfactory or hostile character." It cannot, therefore, hereafter be said, as it has been heretofore, that the change made by the Senate was matter of form rather than substance; nor can the authors of the unqualified notice claim any credit for the happy termination of this angry and protracted dispute. The notice, indeed, was given; and it led doubtless to a decisive proposition, in order to avoid a war; but it was not the notice recommended by the Administration and so strenuously urged by the Fifty-four Forties, which has done this. It was the declaration by the Senate, against the wishes of the administration, that this notice was given in a friendly spirit, and "in order that it might facilitate an amicable adjustment of the dispute," which took from it every thing like an appearance of defiance, and enabled the British government, without seeming to act under the influence of a threat, to submit the proposition, the acceptance of which on our part terminated the controversy. To the Senate, then, from the beginning to the close of the late negotiation, belongs the credit of averting a war upon terms honorable to both parties—a war which, in Gen. Cass's opinion, at the commencement of the session of Congress, was "inevitable," and which we have no doubt would have occurred had the adjustment of the controversy been left to the administration itself or to its special friends in the two Houses of Congress.—*Richmond Whig.*

A true illustration of the modern way of saying yes:

John, wilt thou have this woman for thy wife, And love her well and truly all thy life?  
Said John, without intended for a bow, "I won't have any body else I vow."  
And for a husband wilt thou have this youth, And love him with fidelity and truth?  
His Reverence said unto the lovely she, Who blushing answered, "Yes-sir-ree!"

The Farmers Daughter.—The editor of the Maine Farmer says he is willing that the farmer's daughter, if she have the means to do it, should play upon the piano or the guitar—that she should read poetry, and make herself as polished and refined as the graces themselves, but begs her to remember that this is, but the mere sparkling of the diamond, while the substance, the real worth of the gem, is in the solid matter of domestic knowledge, and that no young lady's education is finished, however accomplished she may be, until she can darn a stocking, milk a cow, and make a fine linen shirt.

### THE RUINS OF PETRA.

From Godog's Lady's Book.  
PETRA, city of the rock,  
Where is now thy power and glory?  
Where the grandeur and the might  
Which we read in ancient story?  
Lofty mansions still remain—  
Richly sculptured domes discover  
What thou wast in former days—  
But thy glorious pomp is over.  
Still secure thy mountain seat,  
Nature's ramparts—strong, enduring—  
But the voice of song is hush'd—  
Hush'd is pleasure's call alluring;  
Silence in thy ruin'd halls,  
Desolation now is dwelling;  
None remain of all thy sons,  
Former joys, or legends telling.  
Thou wast strong, and Israel's God  
Didst deride with haughty bearing—  
Trusting to thy mountain strength,  
In thy proud and impious daring;  
And when weary Israel sought  
Simply through thy land a passage,  
Then thy king the boon refused,  
And returned a warlike message.  
Loud the eagle's troubled scream  
Now resounds among thy towers;  
O'er thine excavated halls  
Jehovah's awful vengeance lowers;  
Naught but eagles' fitful scream,  
Step of wandering Arab passing,  
Echo's sound shall ever wake,  
Ever break thy silence lasting.  
God thy fearful doom pronounced;  
But, exulting in thy splendor,  
Thou the threatening heeded not,  
Fear'd no woes his curse could render;  
But on thy devoted head  
Fierce and long his wrath has rested—  
Thou the bitter cup of woe,  
Even to the dregs, hast tasted.  
Skeptic! canst thou dare to doubt?  
See Jehovah's word unshaken—  
View his dreadful anger pour'd  
On a proud, a guilty nation;  
Dread predictions see fulfill'd;  
Let no warning pass unheeded;  
Doubts renounce—His word receive—  
'Twill bless when blessing most is needed.

\*See a description in Stephen's "Incidents of Travel."

COMMUNICATION WITH THE PACIFIC BY THE ISTHMIAN OF DARIEN.—The English Government has granted \$100,000 per annum to the Royal Company of Trans-Atlantic Steam Navigation, for the establishment of a post route to the Pacific, across the Isthmus. The company at London have published a card, in which they say that "each month a steamship will depart from Panama for Valparaiso and Lima, touching at Guayaquil, Payt, Lembayque, Huanchaco, Cosmo, Callao, Pisco, Islay, Arica, Iquique, Cobila, Copiapo, Huasco and Convinco, arriving at Valparaiso the 24th and 25th of every month. A steam packet will leave Southampton the 17th of every month, and by way of Jamaica, proceed to Chagres, where letters and passengers will arrive on the 20 or 21st of the following month. The price of passage is, for a forward state room \$250; for an after state room \$300. At Chagres the vessel will stop for the discharge of passengers and letters destined to ports on the Pacific. On return with passengers and the mail, the packets will touch at Jamaica, Havana and the Bermudas. At Havana, the passengers from Chagres who have paid \$50, find a steamship departing every month for New Orleans and packets to New York.

We fear that England will yet have the enterprise to do, in advance of us, a work that we should have been at long since, to-wit: Cutting a canal from the gulf of Mexico through the Isthmus of Darien to the Pacific. She evidently has one of her argus eyes turned to that quarter.—*Edger.*

How sweet is the remembrance of a kind act! As we rest on our pillows, or rise in the morning, it gives us delight. We have performed a good deed to a poor man; we have made the widow's heart rejoice; we have dried the orphan's tears. Sweet, O how sweet the thought! There is a luxury in remembering a kind act. A storm caresses above our heads; all is black as midnight; but the sunshine is our bosom; the warmth is felt there. The kind act rejoiceth the heart and giveth delight inexpressible. Who will not be kind? Who will not do good? Who will not visit those who are afflicted in body or mind? To spend an hour among the poor and distressed.

"Is worth a thousand passed  
In pomp and ease—'tis present to the last."

An elderly gentleman travelling in a stage coach, was amused by the constant fire of words kept up between the two ladies. One of them at last kindly inquired if their conversation did not make his head ache? When he answered with a great deal of naivete:—"No madam I have been married for twenty-eight years."

Coffee Bags have been sold in N. York as high as five dollars a piece, says the Bee. So much for the ladies' fashions.

WARLIKE.—"To arms! to arms!" as the bride said to the bridegroom.

Acquire honesty; seek humility; practice economy; love fidelity.

### FROM OREGON.

By the politeness of Mr. SMITH, of this place, we are in possession of the following letter from Peter H. Burnett, Esq.—a gentleman well known to the people of Clay county and the State generally, as a man of truth; therefore this letter may be relied upon as correct in every thing it relates to. Mr. E. has been living in Oregon for several years.

Oregon, January 20, 1846.

WILLIAM S. SMITH, Esq.

Dear Sir.—By the emigrants who came out last fall, I received your letter under date of 20th April, 1845, in which you state that information (in regard to Oregon) is more "in request than ever." I am truly glad to know that my county looks to Oregon with increased interest. You also stated that the information in regard to the discovery of this country, is most ample; but that there is a deficiency as regards its agricultural capacity. In my former letters, particularly those addressed to our mutual friend, the Hon. James M. Hughes, I gave such information relative to this fair and beautiful country, as I could then obtain. At the time, however, I had but recently arrived in Oregon; and my means of information were then more limited than now. I am aware that the people of the U. States, and particularly those of the West, are most anxious to obtain some certain information as regard particularly the extent, and a vicarious capacity of Oregon. I have made agricultural pursuits my constant occupation since I have been here, and can speak from experience. I will give you as full information as I can under the circumstances; remarking at the same time, that I have received many letters from different persons, making substantially the same inquiries as those contained in yours, and I wish them to consider this an answer to all. I find that this business of farming requires eternal vigilance, and I wish my friends to know, that I cannot answer all their letters. Since I have been in Oregon I have written a great deal, as much as I could, without serious injury to my own private affairs, and yet I find my friends complaining that I have not written enough. There is one important fact that I wish all to remember who may read this, and that is, that I state facts as they are now, and not as they may or may not exist one or two years to come.

I will now give you such information as I am enabled to do, in regard to Oregon's capacity for agriculture; at the same time intermingling a few facts relative to other matters; and in doing so I shall confine my remarks to the first section of Oregon, as that portion which lies between the Cascade range of mountains and the Pacific Ocean. You are aware that the Cascade range runs almost parallel with the Pacific, at the distance of from 100 to 150 miles from it; and that this range has many tall snowy peaks, such as Mount Hood, Mount St. Helen, Mount Jefferson and others. On the South side of the Columbia river lies the beautiful valley of the Wallamette. This valley lies between the Cascade mountains and a range of broken irregular mountains along the coast, which are about 30 to 40 miles wide. The Wallamette rises somewhere near the Southern border of Oregon, say the 42 degree N. latitude, and runs about North emptying into the Columbia about five miles below St. Vancouver. The valley of the Wallamette is about 50 miles wide and about 250 to 300 miles long, and contains about as much good land, and lies as well, as the same land would in Missouri or Illinois. Now, you can form an idea of the extent of the good farming land on the South side of the Columbia, and in the first section. Most of this valley is prairie, interspersed with fir, oak, ash, cedar, and a few other kinds of timber; but fir is the principal. About in the middle of this valley the Wallamette winds its peaceful course, skirted with bodies of timber from one to four miles wide. Numerous tributaries empty into the Wallamette on both sides, and these are also skirted with timber. You are already aware that the timber of Oregon is of the most majestic and beautiful kind. I have known from 8 to 13 rail cuts 10 feet long, taken from trees not large enough to make more than 16 rails to the largest cut. I know a man, John B. Jackson, one of my neighbors, who cut and split 1200 rails in 4 days; but you must understand he is more than an ordinary hand. In the Tualatine plains where I live we have a superabundance of timber of all the kinds found in this region of Oregon. In some portions of the Wallamette valley, timber is scarce, and will have to be drawn from two to ten miles. The mountain on each side the valley, and the Wallamette and other streams, furnish an ample supply. Tualatine plains lie at the lower extremity of the Wallamette valley and form a sort of neck to it. These plains lie about an equal distance from the Columbia and Wallamette, say from 6 to 8 miles; but between them and those rivers there intervenes a range of mountains about 1500 feet high, and covered with immense bodies of timber, which rises higher and stands thicker than any timber in the U. States. This range of mountains contains very little stone, not sufficient to prevent good roads being made across it. As yet we have only one road opened from the plains to the Wallamette; to-wit: the one to Simeton, along which most of the two last emigrations passed with their wagons, teams, and cattle. This road being so new, and our means of opening roads being so limited, is as yet, barely passable. You are aware, perhaps, that ships only pass up the Wallamette 15 or 20 miles above its confluence with the Columbia; and that the Falls of the W. are 25 or 30 miles above its mouth. The range of mountains I have mentioned last runs along the west bank of the Wallamette to the distance of some 20 miles above the Falls. At the point where this range terminates the prairies come close to the W. and as far up the stream as any one has gone, there is no mountain near the river on either side. On the east side, near the mouth of the W. to the distance of 20 miles, there is a fine body of land, level enough for cultivation, and coming up to the bank of the river, running back 20 or 30 miles to the Cascade mountains; but this body of land has no clean prairie. It has groves of thick timber in some places, then scattering timber, and then no

timber at all in other places except small undergrowth, such as hazle and other small bushes. The soil is rich, grass fine, the land easily cleared and fitted for cultivation, and some ten or 12 families have settled there. This body of land from its local situation on the W. being easy of access, will soon be very valuable. On this side the river the timbered land continues up the Wallamette about 20 miles above the Falls, when the prairie comes up to the river, at least to the skirt of timber on the river; at all points above this, the fine prairie land comes close to the stream on both sides. From these facts, if you will pay particular attention, you may form some idea of the W. valley. You will therefore see that whoever comes to Oregon, with the expectation of finding fine prairie land bordering immediately upon the Columbia or Wallamette, and below ship navigation, will find himself mistaken.

As to the soil of the Wallamette valley. In some places, I may say in most places, the soil is a rich black loam; in others, it has a reddish cast similar to the best soil in Virginia, but in all portions of the valley the soil is of a superior quality. I know that we have land here equal in quality to the Missouri land; but generally it may be said to be a little inferior to the best soil in Missouri or Illinois. Most persons find the quality of the soil superior to their anticipations. When Indian corn is planted here, it grows so luxuriantly as to produce numerous suckers, which every farmer knows is not the case on their land. The Oregon soil seems to have been formed by Providence to suit the climate. You are aware that for months in the summer and fall we have no rain, while we have an excess of rain in the winter. It has therefore been objected to Oregon, particularly by Mr. McDuffie of S. Carolina, that at one season of the year we were flooded with rain, and at another season parched with drouth. This would seem a correct conclusion, from a mere statement of the length of the rainy and dry seasons. But in opposition to this conclusion I state it to be an undeniable fact that we suffer less for want of rain in Oregon, than you do in any part of the United States. Our soil, when cultivated, has a peculiar power of retaining the moisture, which is much assisted by our cool nights and heavy dews. I know very well, that I had one stalk of the large white corn from Missouri growing in my garden last year; and it grew so luxuriantly, keeping entirely green, until the first day of October, when it was bitten by frost, but was so far matured that I have taken care of it with an intention to plant it next spring. You must remember now that I am speaking of the Wallamette valley, and you may take this as a conclusion certain that its soil is of a superior character and that the drouth, does not injure its production to any material extent. From what I have stated I think you can form a clear and definite idea of the extent and form of the country South of the Columbia, as also of its soil.

You will wish to know more particularly of its productions. That I may be distinctly understood, I will speak of each article of produce separately, giving you the mode of cultivation as far as I know.

And first of wheat. We have in this country three kinds of wheat. The first is a large smooth headed wheat, grows very large and plump, originally brought from England, and such as is usually grown there. This is the best kind. It is called a fall wheat, and may be sown from the first October until the middle of March, at any time when you are ready. The second kind is a smooth headed spring wheat, grain smaller than the foregoing, and not so good. This kind may be sown from first October to 20th May at any time. The third and last kind is a bearded spring wheat, similar in appearance to the bearded wheat grown in the Western States. This may be sown from first October to 20th May. If wheat is sown at any time before the first April, the yield is little difference in the yield; if sown after this, the yield is proportionally less. I sowed some of the bearded wheat in old ground, the 3rd of May last, which yielded about 25 bushels per acre. The first quality of wheat I have mentioned yields the greatest quantity and is the most profitable crop. The yield per acre for new land is from 15 to 20 bushels; for old land from 25 to 40 bushel, with fair cultivation in both cases. The crops here are very uniform, and a failure of a crop has never been known in Oregon, and the quality of the grain is always the very best. As to the mode of cultivation. New land is generally broken up with two yoke of oxen about three inches deep. The grain is then sown upon the ground before it is harrowed. It is then harrowed twice with an iron toothed harrow. After this it is advisable to put a large wooden roller upon it as it smooths the surface, and leaves the land in a good situation for the scythe. Old ground sometimes broken up first and the grain then sown and harrowed in, and at others the grain is sown and then ploughed and harrowed in. I do not know that there is any difference in the yield of the two modes. From one to one and a half bushels is sown to the acre. Our harvest commences about the twenty-fifth of July and ends about seventh September. During this period, and for sometime after, we very seldom have any rain. The days and nights are generally cool and pleasant; so much so, that we have perhaps, the best weather for our harvest, that they have in any part of the world. Wheat grows here taller than in the United States and stands up remarkably well, as we have no rains or winds sufficient to prostrate it. The first kind of wheat I have mentioned, will stand in the field without injuring, three weeks after it is ripe enough to cut. Considering the quantity, the quality, the long time to sow in, the uniformity of the crop, the fine weather for harvest, and the long time the wheat will stand without injury, is not this the first wheat growing country in the world?

As to oats. This grain succeeds as well here as wheat, and may be sown at any time before first of May.

As to rye and barley they succeeded equally well as also buckwheat. Peas are sown here broadcast like wheat, and harrowed in and have been found a very profitable crop. The soil is particularly adapted to this growth. You may sow them in the fall and they will grow all the winter, and bear quite early in the spring; and you may sow them at any time before the 20th of May and they will produce finely. They are an ex-

cellent article for fattening swine. Irish potatoes, (the only kind we have, as there are no sweet potatoes here) grow exceedingly well, and are planted in March, April and May, and cultivated as in the U. States. The quality is supposed to be better than that of potatoes grown in the U. S. Cabbages, parsnips, carrots, beets, beans, and onions grow as well as they do in Mo. Mr. Williams sold a half bushel of onions to Mr. Meeky at the W. Falls, which contained just 40 onions. The article of turnips is grown here extensively, for certainly no country can exceed, if any can equal this, in their production. They are sown from first June to middle July. The climate is so mild that we never put up our turnips, cabbages, onions, or beets. Turnips will grow until Christmas. They are generally sown upon new land, and harrowed in well.

Indian corn has not succeeded so well heretofore as other things. All the early kinds grown in the U. S. succeed here well. The squaw corn, generally found amongst the western Indians, with a ear about 12 inches long, has been grown here successfully. No fair experiment has been made upon the large white gourd seed corn from the western States, until the present season. Mr. John Sharp, whom you know, succeeded, as I am informed, the last year in tending it to perfection; also Mr. Williams. I have in my possession a ear of it, grown by the latter gentleman, in the last season, which is fully matured, and of good size and large grain. From these experiments I am well satisfied that this species of corn when acclimated will succeed well, and yield a good crop. But this crop will always be less profitable in Oregon than it is in the U. States, for the reason that we have no cattle or horses to feed, and wheat and other crops are so easily managed, ere so certain to yield a good crop, and we have so long a period to sow in. No one cares to grow corn here to any great extent. Hemp and Flax succeed very well, but as yet we have but little seed in the country.

As to grasses, I can say this country is peculiarly adapted. Clover has been grown here to advantage. Timothy and blue grass grow as well here as in the U. States. Other grasses we have not tried. Melons, squashes, and pumpkins in some soils grow as large as they do in Mo., in others they produce well, but do not grow quite so large as they do in the western States generally. Upon our streams in the Wallamette valley, we have bodies of bottom land, from one-fourth to one mile in width. Many of these lands are above high water mark, and are as rich as the best lands in Mo. or Ill. and produce everything grown in Oregon to great perfection. Our uplands, like the uplands in every country, though very fertile are not so fertile, as our bottom lands. The soil on the uplands is from one to three feet deep, upon a clay foundation; while on the bottom lands, it is generally deeper, with the same foundation. Our lands are never washed away by the floods. I have not yet seen a gully washed in any field in Oregon. The reason is, that our rains fall so gently, that the water absorbs as fast as it falls, or runs off in such small streamlets as not to carry away any soil. That I may be understood even by the careless reader, I must repeat that what I have as yet said, has reference only to the Wallamette valley; and this valley let it be remembered comprises most of the good land on the South side of the Columbia, and in the first region of Oregon. It is said that there is a fine body of land upon the Uniqua to the South of this, but I must remark that the geography of that part of the country is little known, and I can say nothing certain. It is my opinion, founded upon such information as we have, that there must be a considerable body of fine land in that region. Many persons have been far up the Wallamette, and have ascended very tall points of mountains, affording extensive views of the country in all directions; and they say that there is no appearance of any mountains for a great distance South; but that the valley of the W. seems to continue beyond the range of vision. From the mouth of the Wallamette down to the mouth of the Columbia there are no good sites for farms. A few farms might be made perhaps, but the mountains come in too close to the river. At the mouth of the Columbia, there are two other small prairies called the Clatsop Plains. They are very level, lying upon the coast, and have been formed by deposits, like the Mo. and Miss. bottoms. The soil is a rich, black, sandy loam about a foot thick upon a bed of pure white sand. All kinds of garden vegetables grow there exceedingly well; but wheat and Indian corn cannot be grown there, owing to its immediate vicinity to the ocean. You will see that the soil cannot last long under cultivation.

I will now speak of the country on the North side of the Columbia. And here I must say that our information is so scant that I can add very little to what is already known. I have several neighbors, who came from the colony of Lord Selkirk, and Red River, West of Upper Canada. These people came here under a contract with the Hudson Bay Company; and were first settled in the vicinity of Nesqually on Puget's Sound. They remained there upwards of a year, sowed wheat, planted potatoes and other vegetables. They only harvested and gathered about as much as they had sown and planted. They state however that there is some fine land some ten or fifteen miles back from the ocean, but that the soil upon and near the shore was intermixed with gravel. The country produces fine grass, and the climate very little colder than that of the South side of the Columbia. During last fall several of the Emigrants who came out in 1844, and among the rest, Mr. MICHAEL SIMMONS, from Andrew county, Missouri, explored a portion of the country on the North side of the Columbia and the result was that they discovered several bodies of good land, and have went to the number of some ten or twenty families to settle there. I think they did not extend their explorations to any considerable distance. What quantity of good tillable land there may be on the North side of the river, I cannot pretend to say, because no one knows. I am inclined to think however, that it is much greater than has heretofore been supposed. It is well known that the Hudson Bay company or the gentlemen connected with it, have a considerable settlement on the Carliitz, a stream emptying into the Columbia.

(Continued on 2d & 3rd column.)