

Champoeg Marion County
25th November 1851

Mr. Editor,

Having called the attention of the people to some of the defects of our Territorial Government, it now remains briefly to suggest the remedies before dismissing the subject. The people should either directly or through their representatives petition Congress.

1st. To divide the Territory by the Columbia river, and establish the eastern boundaries of two Territories permanently.

2nd. To restore to the people of said Territories their political rights, by allowing them to adopt their own form of Government - to choose their own officers,- as a body politic to have their voice in the councils of the nation, and to vote in the election of President and Vice-President of the United States.

3rd. That such offices as strictly belong to the Federal Government, but the duties of which directly relate to Oregon (such as the U. S. Judicial, Indian, Land, and Revenue departments) be filled with resident citizens of Oregon.

4th. That the military stationed in the Territory be so far subjected to the Civil Government as to be made available in the protection and defence of the people.

5th. That until the Territories respectively contain a population equal to the ratio of representation in the House of Representatives - that Congress continue to support their civil Governments.

6th. and lastly when the population of either equals the ratio of Representation, that it take its place, as one of the states of the Union by the operation of a general law and not by special enactment.

To notice these subjects in the order of their arrangements I would say, That if too great an extent of territory is good cause for a division, it more forcibly exists now in the infancy of the settlement of the country, than it will hereafter when roads are opened and the facilities of travel increased - at once defining the boundaries that will be permanently those of the States to grow up in the territory will settle in advance many questions that vex and agitate young communities and retard their growth, it is true of towns counties or States, as of mathematical figures from established lines or boundaries centres or the proper seats of justice are determinate, and the lines or roads connecting their parts become also fixed, and so long as the boundaries are variable the rest must fluctuate, leaving open local questions upon which elections are made to turn, instead of the qualifications of candidates or the more important questions of general policy, and not unfrequently the people are oppressed with taxes, and the body politic involved in debt for the erection of buildings or other improvements which by a change of boundary - cease to be central, and

therefore useless for the purpose intended. It also affects injuriously the commercial and mechanical pursuits of the people. Merchants, manufacturers and tradesmen fear to invest capital, or locate permanently in a country until its towns and thoroughfares become established.

In regard to the second subject, - the policy, justice, and necessity of restoring to us our political rights, appear so plain that like the self evident truths of science, there is nothing upon which to base an argument, or that needs a demonstration. I can only say of it as of the third subject, that what we ask for Oregon may with equal propriety apply to all parts of the Union. To give to every citizen of this vast Republic the full and free exercise of those rights so dearly cherished by them all will be as great a benefit and blessing on the banks of Lake Superior as on the shores of the Pacific.. and that those who fill official stations in their midst by whose acts they are directly benefited or injured, are their fellow citizens whose interests, are in common, and the same with their own, will be equally productive of good in Massachusetts as in Minnesota, and the day of its adoption as the law of the land, should be regarded as an era to be commemorated in our history, as the first step towards checking that prolific source of corruption the abuse of executive patronage.

The 4th subject appears to require the attention of Congress specially. Two equal and independent powers existing in the community however earnest their desire to discharge their duties respectively, cannot long exist in harmony. If the military are to answer any useful purpose here it is to protect the country. If the frontiers are menaced or endangered from whom are they to receive official information but from the Executive or Indian Department? and if they pay no regard to the representations of these officers, - and by their presence, prevent the Governor or Superintendent from calling out the militia, their presence is not an advantage but an injury.

The 5th subject - seems hardly necessary to be urged, changing the mode of filling the civil offices in the Territory will in no wise impair the claims of the Territorial Government upon congress for its support, and on the other hand there can be no objection to Congress imposing such restraints upon it as will secure its economical administration.

That the last subject is important the many exciting and dangerous discussions in Congress growing out of the application of new States for admission into the Union make apparent. The domestic institutions or political bias of the applicant, with which congress have no right to meddle are made the reasons for admission or rejection. Whereas if States were admitted under a general law conforming to the guarantees of the constitution there would be neither room nor occasion for those discords fomented by higher law fanatics on one side - and the assertors of that paradox in a land of liberty and religion that the right by which one Christian holds his brother in bondage is too sacred for legislation.

In concluding what I have to say on this subject, I beg leave once more to say, its discussion is not intended to favor, or injury person or party - or to attach blame to officers either civil or military, not being the servants of the people of Oregon they have no right to be called by them to an account.

To the power whose agents they are, they must account for the management of the property under their charge and we must admit they have been not less kind and lenient than the overseers of other potentates who claim human beings in that capacity.

(But if the people of Oregon are disposed to ask for emancipation no time can be more propitious than the present. They are democratic - their appeal is to a democratic Congress for democratic rights, and their Delegate strong in their almost unanimous voice and his well won honors, needs only a great occasion to prove his greatness.

Put into his hands a soul stirring theme like this, in which the inspiration of deep feeling gives, brilliancy and force to the efforts of intellect, and what may be not effect, not for Oregon only, but the nation?)

An Old Oregonian

Champoeg Marion County

25th November 1851. -

Mr. Editor.

Having called the attention of the people to some of the defects of our Territorial Government, it now remains briefly to suggest the remedies before dismissing the subject.

The people should either directly, or through their representatives petition Congress.

1st. To divide the Territory by the Columbia river, and establish the Eastern boundaries of two Territories heretofore.

2^d. To restore to the people of said Territories their political rights, by allowing them to adopt their own form of Government - to choose their own officers - as a body politic to have their voice in the councils of the nation, and to vote in the election of President and Vice-President of the United States.

3^d. That such offices as strictly belong to the Federal Government, but the duties of which directly relate to Oregon (such as the U.S. Judicial, Indian, Land, and Revenue departments) be filled with resident citizens of Oregon.

4th. That the military stationed in the Territory be so far subjected to the Civil Government as to be made available in the protection and defence of the people.

5th. That until the Territories respectively contain a population equal to the ratio of representation in the House of Representatives that Congress continue to support their civil Governments.

6th and lastly when the population of either equals the ratio of representation, that it take its place, as one of the States of the Union by the operation of a general law and not by special enactment.

To notice these subjects in the order of their arrangement I would say, that if too great an extent of territory is good cause for a division, it more forcibly exists now in the infancy of the settlement of the country, than it will hereafter when roads are opened and the facilities of travel increased - at once defining the boundaries that will be perma-

nently those of the States to grow up in the Territory will settle in advance many questions that vex and agitate young communities and retard their growth, it is true of towns Counties or States, ^{as of mathematical figures} from established lines or boundaries centres or the proper seats of justice are determined, and the lines or roads connecting ^{their} parts become ^{also} fixed, and so long as the boundaries are variable the rest must fluctuate, leaving open local questions upon which elections are made to turn, instead of the qualifications of candidates or the more important questions of general policy, and not infrequently the people are oppressed with taxes, and the body politic involved in debt for the erection of buildings or other improvements which by a change of boundary cease to be central, and therefore useless for the purposes intended. It also affects injuriously the commercial and mechanical pursuits of the people. Merchants, manufacturers and tradesmen fear to invest capital, or locate permanently in a country until its towns and thoroughfares become established.

In regard to the second subject - the policy, justice, and necessity of restoring to us our political rights, appear so plain that like the self evident truths of Science, there is nothing upon which to base an argument, or that needs a demonstration.

I can only say of it as of the third subject, that what we ask for Oregon may with equal propriety apply to all parts of the Union. To give to every citizen of this vast Republic the full and free exercise of those rights so dearly cherished by them all, will be as great a benefit and blessing on the banks of Lake Superior as on the shores of the Pacific.

And that those who fill official stations in their midst by whose acts they are directly benefited or injured, are their fellow citizens whose interests, are in common, and the same with their own, will be equally productive of good in Massachusetts, as in Minnesota, and ~~I predict~~ the day of its adoption as the law of the land, should be regarded as an era to be commemorated in our history, as the first step towards checking that prolific source of corruption the abuse

of executive patronage.

The 4th subject appears to require the attention of Congress especially - Two equal and independent powers existing in the community however earnest their desire to discharge their duties respectively, cannot long exist in harmony. - If the military are to answer any useful purpose here it is to protect the country - If the frontiers are menaced or endangered from whom are they to receive official information but from the Executive or Judicial Department? and if they pay no regard to the representations of these officers, - and by their presence, prevent the Governor or Superintendent from calling out the militia their presence is not an advantage but an injury -

The 5th subject seems hardly necessary to be urged, Changing the mode of filing the civil offices in the Territory will in no wise impair the claims of the Territorial Government upon Congress for its support, and on the other hand there can be no objection to Congress imposing such restraints upon it as will secure its economical administration,

That the last subject is important the many exciting and dangerous discussions in Congress growing out of the application of new States for admission into the Union, make apparent. The domestic institutions or political bias of the applicant, with which Congress have no right to meddle are made the reasons for admission or rejection, whereas if States were admitted under a general law conforming to the guarantees of the Constitution there would be neither room nor occasion for those discords fomented by higher law fanatics on one side - and the assertors of that paradox in a land of liberty and religion that the right by which one Christian holds his brother in bondage is too sacred for legislation,

In concluding what I have to say on this subject I beg leave once more to say, its discussion is not intended to favor or injure person or party - or to attach blame to officers either

civil or military, not being the servants of the people of Oregon they have no right to ^{be} called ^{by} them to an account.

To the power whose agents they are, they must account for the management of the property under their charge, and we must admit they have been not less kind and lenient than the overseers of other potentates who claim human beings in that capacity,

But if the people of Oregon are disposed to ask for emancipation no time can be more propitious than the present. They are democratic - Their appeal is to a democratic Congress for democratic rights, and their Delegates strong in their almost unanimous voice and his well won hono-
ors, needs only a great occasion to prove his greatness.

Put into his hands a soul stirring theme like this, in which the inspiration of deep feeling gives, brilliancy and force to the efforts of intellect, and what may he not effect, not for Oregon only, but the nation?

An Old Oregonian,