

For the Statesman

At Home, - Aug. 5th, 1858

Dear Sir:-

In the Statesman of the 3d inst, in your leading editorial, under the head of "The September Session- Shall it be held," I perceive that you quote and comment upon an extract from a letter written by Gen. Lane. Allow me to say that whilst I concur with you, in the general views expressed in the article in question, I incline to the opinion that you have not rightly apprehended Gen. Lane's meaning. I do not think he intended, (though his language strictly construed would imply as much) that the State Government should completely supercede the Territorial at this time, or prior to our actual admission into the Union by action of Congress. On the contrary, I am of the opinion that he intended no more than to advise that the people of Oregon persevere for by the Constitution, such as the election and sending forward Senators and a representative in Congress- meeting- in time and manner as you suggest- of the State Legislature, &c, and not to become discouraged by reason of our non-admission at the late session of Congress, and, in consequence, abandon, as at present hopeless, our State organization. If this is what the General did mean, of course there is no difference of opinion. But if, on the contrary, he really intended to express the judgement you have imputed to him and which his language would seem to justify, then I think you are clearly correct in dissenting from him.

The doctrine is well settled, and almost everywhere acquiesced in, that the Territorial Government must be submitted to until it is fairly superceded by the concurrent action of both houses of Congress by the Supreme Court and by the Democratic party:- a doctrine that will, most unquestionably, be adhered to in all future time. If Oregon should now depart from it by throwing off and disregarding her Territorial and executing and adhering to her State organization, she would lose the prestige of her fair and well earned fame, but would be regarded and treated as guilty of an act of revolution and rebellion. Such a step, on our part, so far from facilitating, would retard our advent into the Union; and, in the mean time, disorder, confusion, doubt and uncertainty would characterize our immediate future.

Unfortunate as the nonaction of Congress touching our application for admission is, or may hereafter prove to be, it must be borne. Oregon cannot now afford to tarnish or jeopardize the people of Kansas and other misguided, ill-governed and ill-fated territories.

I have conversed with several well informed members of the State Legislature who agree fully with the sentiments contained in your article, in regard to the meeting and adjourning of the State Legislature; and I have no doubt but that the same view will be taken by all.

Forming my opinions upon all that I have seen in point and the contents of private communications from Washington and the Atlantic States, I have very little fear of the defeat, in the House of Representatives, of the Senate Bill providing for the admission of Oregon. On the contrary I strongly incline to the opinion that we will be admitted very

early in the next session. Under all the circumstances, shurely Congress will not insist that we shall treat all that we have done in the Organization of a statement as a nullity, and force us to foot the expenses and live on under a Colonial government until a few thousand more gold-seekers or another emigration, two or three years hence, across the plains shall give us the precise number of 93400 inhabitants! The previous action of Congress, during the two or three years last past, has greatly encouraged us to take the steps we have taken--the certainly will not, at this late period- this stage of progress,- shut the door in our face. I do not believe that Oregon is doomed to be tied to and borne down by that "body of death" called Kansas. At all events life and health spared I propose to go to Washington early, and in the name of the people of Oregon, stand at the door and knock for admission, until, as I now think, they will bid us "come on and be seated!"

The reason why I have written the foregoing is because I was anxious to answer, in the most convenient way, the many inquired constantly propounded to one.

Respectfully & truly, yours, &c

Delason Smith

To the Statesman.

At-Home, Aug 5th, 1859.

45

Dear Sir:-

In the Statesman of the 3rd inst, in your leading editorial, under the head of "The September Session - Shall it be held," I perceive that you quote and comment upon an extract from a letter written by Gen. Lane. - I had me to say that whilst I concur with you, in the general views expressed in the article in question, I incline to the opinion that you have not rightly apprehended Gen. Lane's meaning. I do not think he intended, (though his language seriously construed would imply as much,) that the State Government should completely supersede the Territory at this time, or prior to our actual admission into the Union by action of Congress. On the contrary, ^{and} ~~and~~ ^{and} the opinion that he intended no more than to advise that the people of Oregon persevere in taking each consecutive step provided for by the Constitution, such as the election and sending forward Senators and a Representative in Congress - meeting in the time and manner as you suggest - of the State Legislature, &c, and not to become discouraged by reason of our non-admission at the late Session of Congress, and, in consequence, abandon, as at present happens, our State Organization. If this is what the General did mean, of course there is no difference of opinion. But if, on the contrary, he really intended to express the judgement you have imputed to him and which his language would seem to justify, then I think

The 5th Session, &c.

of Congress, and writes as follows:

~~You are clearly correct in departing from him.~~

The doctrine is well settled, and is more
everywhere and by every body acquiesced in, that
the Territorial government must be submitted
to ~~with~~ it is fairly superseded by the
formal consent action of both houses of
Congress admitting the State into the Union! A
doctrine maintained by the Administration, by
Congress, by the Supreme Court and by the Demo-
cratic party, a doctrine that will, most unques-
tionably, be adhered to in all future time. If
Oregon should now depart from it by throwing
off and disregarding her Territorial and execut-
ing and adhering to her ^{own} organization, she
would lose the prestige of her ^{own} and well earned fame,
but would be regarded and treated as guilty of an
act of revolution and rebellion. Such a step,
in our part, so far from facilitating, would re-
tard our ascent into the Union, and, in the
mean time, disorder, confusion, doubt and uncer-
tainty would characterize our immediate future.

Unfortunate as the proposition of Congress
touching our application for admission is, or may
hereafter prove to be, it must be borne. Oregon
cannot now afford to furnish a ^{pre}cedent
her unspotted record by experimenting, ~~as a mode~~
the people of Kansas and other misguided, ill-
governed and unpopulated territories.

I have conversed with several well informed
members of the State Legislature who agree fully
with the opinions contained in your article,
in regard to the meeting and adjourning of the State
Legislature; and I have no doubt but that the
same view will be taken by all.

Examining your opinions upon all that I have seen
in print and the contents of private communica-
tions from Wellington and the Atlantic States, I have
very little fear of the defeat, ~~of the~~ in the House of
Representatives, of the Senate bill providing for the
admission of Oregon. On the contrary I strongly
incline to the opinion that we will be admitted
very early in the next session, under all the circum-
stances, should Congress will not insist that we shall
treat all that we have done in the organization of a
State as a nullity, and force us to foot the
expenses and live on under a ~~territorial~~ territorial
government until ~~at~~ a few thousand more
gold seekers or another migration, two or three
years hence, across the Plains shall give us the
precise number of 93400 inhabitants! The pre-
vious action of Congress, during the two or three years
last past, has greatly encouraged us to take the
step we have taken - they certainly will not, at
this late period - the stage of our progress, shut
the door in our face. I do not believe that Oregon
is doomed to be tied to and borne down by that
"body of death" called Kansas. ~~Let not men to
lift and breathe upon - I propose to go to Wellington
early, and in the name of the people of Oregon, stand
at the door and knock for admission; and, as I now
think, they will bid us "come on and be seated!"~~

The reason why I have written the foregoing
is because I was anxious to answer, in the most con-
venient way, the many inquiries constantly propoun-
ded to me.

Respectfully,
Yours, &c.

William Smith