

territorial officer at the seat of government. How a people can thus rest quietly on a volcano, while the means of escape are at their option, is past our comprehension.

[Spectator.]

GOV. LANE'S DEPARTURE.—It will be seen from the proceedings of the Steamboat Company, that Gov. Lane has consented to visit the States as agent of the company. No one, acquainted with the condition of things in Oregon, can justly take any exception to the course pursued by his Excellency in this matter. The commerce of the Territory, by the mere force of circumstances, has crowded itself to its present flourishing condition. But it has reached its ultimate extreme. Nothing but steam power can force it any farther. This power it is now proposed to apply, and there is perhaps no man in the Territory better qualified than is Gov. Lane for giving direction and energy to this enterprise. We regard its completion as involving the permanent prosperity of the Territory.

As for any exception that may be made to the propriety of the Governor's leaving his official post, we are persuaded that all who sincerely regard the prosperity of Oregon, will agree that in the present peculiar conjuncture in our affairs, he can serve us more extensively in his private enterprise, than he could in his public station. The civil government of this Territory is virtually dissolved, and hence the Governor being literally alone, could effect but little as Governor of the Territory. Under these circumstances, it must surely be proper for him to serve the country, and promote its welfare as best he can. [Ibid.]

Query? Will the departure of Gov. Lane from Oregon, (including the absence of all officers,) be such a withdrawal of General Government from the Territory, as to authorize the citizens, according to the Calhoun doctrine, to organize a State Government?

[W.B.]

CHURCH AND STATE.

Forasmuch as there are diversified views among the people, relating to the duties of Bishops of the Church, and Magistrates of the State;

We say the Bishops are Common Judges in all temporal matters, arising in their respective Wards, affecting the fellowship of Church members, whose duty it is to see that the laws of the Church are faithfully executed. Magistrates are Common Justices in all civil and criminal cases arising in their respective Precincts, affecting the collection of debt, the Execution of property, and the punishment of crime; Whose duty it is to see that the laws of the State are faithfully executed.

The laws of the State protect those of the Church.

In keeping the laws of the Church, we have no need to break the laws of the land; Nevertheless if any church member transgress the laws of the Church they should be had in remembrance before the *common Council*, or Bishop, be disfellowshipped and delivered over as a citizen unto the laws of the land, according to the covenants: and the laws of the State take effect upon persons only who transgress them.

Thus the affairs of the church are helps in governments and assist the State in the execution of Justice; while the state laws have nothing to do with church members, only as they transgress them: And no citizen of the State is under any circumstances amenable to the laws of the Church; While church members are amenable to both church and state for the rectitude of their conduct.

Wd. SNOW.

Dr. Clinton, Harrison Burgess, and Milo Andrus, are leading the front camps of the Saints, Elder Lorenzo Young, is alive and coming forward, President Joseph Young, we understand is on the way.

CUT OFF.

Pilot Peak, July 29 1850.

CAPT. HOOPER.—Sir, I am across the great Desert after a hard drive, this *Desert is over 80 miles* without any doubt. Should any Emigrants call on you for information, you can say to them with confidence, that they *can not* get through with their animals without at least 2 gallons of water to each animal and one gallon for each person; without they can carry this quantity of water with a supply of grass; no man should ever attempt to cross. There was a great deal of suffering among those that came over at the same time that I did, but no lives lost, but no doubt a great many would not have got through, had it not been for the active part of those that got across early and hauled water back, for those behind.

The road is very fine especially across the desert, and plenty of grass and water on this route with the exception of the desert; I hope no one will endeavor to come this road without they are well prepared.

Yours in haste.

Jno. B. MCGEE.

Capt. Hooper vouches for Mr. McGee's veracity.

"It will seem curious, to those who are not aware of the fact, that the first towns built by Europeans upon the American continent, were St. Augustine, in East Florida, and Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico. The river Gila was explored before the Mississippi was known, & gold was sought in California long ere the first white man had endeavored to find a home on the shores of New England. There are doubtless trees standing within the fallen buildings of ancient Panama that had not commenced to grow when the sites of Boston and New York were covered with the primeval wilderness."

NAT. ERA.

Incendiarism is of daily occurrence in New Orleans, say the papers.