TRUTH TELLER.

DEVOTED TO THE DISSEMINATION OF TRUTH, AND SUPPRESSION OF HUMBUG.

EDITED BY ANN ONYMOUS. Steilacoom, W.T., February 25, 1858. VOL. NO. 000.

A PAGE IN MILITARY HISTORY.

BY AN OFFICER OF THE ARMY.

In the Fall of 1855, a war broke out between the whites and the Indians of Washington Territory. The head and front of the outbreak on the part of the Indians, was Kam-ai-a-kin. He took this stand from a fixed principle: that of resisting all encroachments on the part of the whites. He had seen the fate of the Indian race in the Willamette valley, and he determined to anticipate such a result with regard to his own people, and if possible to prevent it. When Gov. Stevens made his arbitrary treaties with him, and left him no discretion but to sell his land; and when the miners began to transverse his country, he concluded that the hour had arrived to fight, and he called to his aid as many of the adjoining tribes as he could persuade into it.

The head of the war on the Sound was Kanaskut, his main auxillaries were Kitsap and Quiemal. Kanasket was at the treaty at McAllister's creek, and was cognizant of the miserable piece of fir timber ground that was given to the Nisquallies. He saw, how Leschi was spurned away when he spoke up and protested: they told him "to go away! you are half Klikatat, you have nothing to say, the treaty is made." Kanasket bore the story of the treaty at Medicine creek to Kam-ai-a-kin, and it prepared him to look with exceeding jealousy upon the treaty at Walla Walla.

For two weeks in July, 1855, they labored with Kam-ai-a-kin and the other principal chiefs of that country to accomplish a treaty; and had it not been for the temporizing influence of Gen. Palmer, which checked the headstrong and arbitrary policy of Gov. Stevens, that treaty never would have been made; and it is a matter of exceeding probability that the war which afterwards followed came near dating its origin at that council by the massacre of the Commission and the little guard of regulars that accompanied it.

The manner in which the treaties on the Sound were conducted, created great dissatisfaction among the Indians, and they were quite ready to join Kam-ai-a-kin. The war commenced by the killing of miners who were picked off, in the Yakama country as they were going to Fort Colville, scarcely a month after the Walla Walla council. The killing of the Agent Bolen set the war in a blaze. Haller was sent to chastise them and was driven back.

This success on the part of the Klickatats, encouraged the Sound Indians, and the promises of a great many horses and cattle and the threats of extermination if they did not join in the war, determined the Indians to take advantage of the absence of the troops—who had started over the mountains under Capt. Maloney—to co-operate with Major Rains, whose expedition succeeded that of Haller's and they fell upon and killed the unprotected inhabitants of White river. The Indians of the Sound who united with the Klickatats were more or less related to them, and the great mass of them spoke the Klickatat tongue. They occupied the principal portion of the tract lying between the Nisqually and Snohomish rivers, the Sound and the Cascade mountains. Kanaskit and Kitsap headed this attack and they compromised and forced others into it, who participated reluctantly. Three women, a number of children, and several men were killed, about thirteen in all. This occurred about the 26th of October, 1855, and was the first act of hostility on the Sound. The usual outrages of Indian barbarity were committed, but several children were saved, and quite a number of families had escaped the massacre, by being warned by the Indians themselves.

A considerable force of volunteers was called out by the Governors of Washington and Oregon, on a requisiton of Major Rains. The Washington Territory volunteers were mustered into service under Capt. Maloney; but the Oregon volunteers refused to do so, and marched into the field with Major Rains, under their own commanders.

About this time, a war broke out between the volunteers and the regular troops; a war that has continued without abatement from that time to this, with frequent conflicts and skirmishing on both sides.

This war had its origin in southern Oregon, where the principal difficulties and duties of the regular troops were to protect the Indians from a set of unprincipled and irresponsible white men. For two years previous, reports and complaints were forwarded to the Head quarters, Department of Pacific, commanded by Gen'l Wool, by the regular officers on duty in that region, setting forth the acts of these white men, many of them quite as brutal and savage as any ever perpetrated by Indians. A petty theft, or personal quarrel was deemed a sufficient excuse for killing an Indian on the spot, or making a night attack on an unsuspecting camp. These things fixed the idea in the mind of Gen. Wool, that all the difficulties in the two Territories had the same common origin, viz: the whites themselves.

Finally the wholesale slaughter of women and children by Major Lupton's party, drove the Indians of that section to desperation. This party was organized under the false report, that the Indians were killing the stock on Butte creek—a report founded on the fact that a farmer of that section, had an ox that died, and he gave the meat to the Indians, and some passers-by saw them cutting it up, and bore the false report to Jacksonville. This was Jake's band of Indians, who were on a pass from the reservation, to procure provisions; and the same day that this intelligence went into Jacksonville, they were recalled by the Indian agent. The warriors returned immediately, leaving the women and children to follow the next day. But at daylight—Lupton was upon them and killed twenty-seven of them; of this entire party but 3 were capable of bearing arms, the others were old men, women and children. This occurred on the morning of the 8th of October, 1855. The news was immediately borne to the reservation, that night seven Indians left the reservation, after killing a young man who was making shingles for the Indians. They proceeded down the Rogue river, killing a man at Evan's ferry, early on the morning of the 9th, two miles further on, they killed Jones and his wife, a few miles farther, several travellers, and finally united with George's band of about thirty, and the war in southern Oregon was fairly commenced. The causes of these outbreaks in the north and south, though separate and distinct, were confounded, both by Gen. Wool and the people of Oregon, each holding their own opinions. The people said it was a combination of all the tribes against the whites, and cited as proof the coincidence of their occurring nearly at the same time. Though, in reality, the first acts of the north were committed in August and September. Gen. Wool said it was the aggressions of the whites themselves. The one making the real cause in the north, the excuse for the outbreak in the south, and the other, the real cause of the outbreak in the south, the supposed cause for hostilities in the north.

Under these two false impressions, the war between the regulars and volunteers commenced about the time that Rains' [illegible]dition was organized, and the volunteers from Oregon refused to be mustered into the U. S. [illegible] continued very bitter during the whole winter. The sensitive pride of Gen. Wool revolted at the abusive and inconsiderate criticisms of the Oregon papers. The want of consideration in the Executives also, touched the old veteran's pride. Instead of leaving to him the duty of defending the country, and punishing the Indians, or consulting him for the common defence, and tendering the aid they posessed, they ignored him, and following a policy of their own, they took up the war on their own account, thus usurping the duties with which Gen. Wool was lawfully invested.

The two heads naturally antagonistic, pursuing different policies, often directly opposed to each other, have created the only obstacle which exists against the payment of scrip. Had not the Executives refused to concert with the proper authority for the common defense, the Indian war debt would have been paid immediately; but, a policy so directly opposed to the spirit of our institutions, will have its payment delayed for years.

In consequence of this outbreak with the volunteers, Major Rains' expedition was delayed beyond the time appointed, and Capt. Maloney, who had been ordered from Fort Steilacoom, to co-operate with him across the Nachess pass, had to be recalled, and the express conveying the information overtook him in the Nachess pass. This express on its return, consisting of seven men was ambuscaded near Connell's or Tenalquot prairie, and Messrs. Moses and Miles were killed.

This occurred on the 30th of October, 1855, four days after the massacre on White river, the day after the attack on Eaton's Rangers, and the killing of McAllister, and several days after the declaration of war as set forth in the proclamation of the acting-Governor of Washington Territory.

The expedition of Major Rains was made without the co-operation of Capt. Maloney, who had enough to do with the hostile Indians on Puget Sound, who, though few in number, at no time exceeding over two hundred warriors, were more or less successful at first. They engaged the troops on their return from the Nachess, on White river as they attempted to follow them, and disputed the crossing for a whole day. The following day they did not obstruct the ford, and the troops followed the Indians over to Green river. Here the Indians again disputed the crossing, and the troops, without engaging or attempting to cross over and charge the Indians in their stronghold, where all their women and children, stores, and their entire equipments were collected, committed the great military mistake of quietly marching back in the face of the foe, and went into camp at Montgomery's on the Nisqually plains. As this was at the beginning of winter, the Indians might have been conquered then and there, so far as the hostilities on this this side of the Mountains were concerned. The force which went into camp at Montgomery's, was near two hundred strong, regulars and volunteers.

Here they were joined by the acting-Governor who, with the military commanders, planned another expedition of fifty men under Lieut. Slaughter, which after some delay set out about the latter part of November. The first night on the Puyallup river, the Indians took all the horses and mules; pursuit was made to recover them but without success. The Indians refused to engage the troops, until finally Lient. Slaughter marched the greater part of his command over to the Dewamish river to form a junction with a company of volunteers under Capt. Hewitt. Here, put off their guard by the statement of Capt. Hewitt, that there was no enemy at hand, they were surprised in the night and Lt. Slaughter and a number of his men were killed. The Indians instead of opposing his front came up in his rear.

The death of Lieut. Slaughter struck terror into the whole country. The Indians had been so underestimated, that the former force was deemed too large to bring the enemy to battle, and the second and smaller force was sent to tempt them to fight. The result was such, that the Indians who had been thus underestimated, were immediately considered to be the bravest, most daring, and bloodthirsty of their race, and no more expeditions were undertaken until large re-enforcements and supplies were received.

Meanwhile operations were going on east of the mountains. Major Rains' expedition failed to engage the enemy; and after marching through the Yakima country returned to the Dalles.

The arrival of Gen. Wool in the country about this time, increased the hostilities existing between the regulars and volunteers, and a contemplated exp[illegible] the return of Gov. Stevens from the Blackfoot country—was abandoned, so far as the regular troops were concerned; but the volunteers, under the direction of the Governor of Oregon, and the acting-Governor of Washington, marched to Walla-Walla and there became embroiled with Peu-peu-mox-mox and his people; thus extending the hostile field, which by good management might have been confined to the Yakima country only.

They remained there all winter, after having accomplished the safe return of Gov. Stevens, and lived on horse flesh without accomplishing any object, except to increase the extent of the theater of war.

On the Sound immediately upon Governor Stevens return he took Napoleonic measures to end the war, and in direct opposition to the policy of the proper military authorities of the country, and without consulting them, he organized troops and planned campaigns. About this time a new regiment of regular troops arrived in the country, a portion of which was sent to the Sound country. This re-enforcement was deemed sufficient by the Commanding General to protect the country and punish the Indians; but Gov. Stevens did not think so, and carried on his own plans and policy, which differed materially from the authority properly invested with the protection of the country. The two powers marched into the field about the middle of February, 1856, in separate columns, each pursuing a different policy against the common foe.

The Indians at this time were considerably disaffected among each other. The winter had given them time to reflect; they would willingly have made peace if they could have done so with safety to themselves. The winter passed without any act of hostility. No forays were made, no descent on the settlements, nothing of that hostile character which might be expected from such a foe took place during the winter; but frequent overtures of peace. At the suggestion of Leschi, a white child (one of their prisoners) was sent in by way of an overture. That Leschi was the cause of this moderate policy, is proved by his visit to the Reservation; meeting on his way a number of white men whose lives he spared by interposing his influence against that of Kenasket—he returned without committing any acts of hostility, except to take off as many friendly Indians as he could induce to follow him to the hostile camp. His course in these matters created enemies for him in his own camp, and disaffection arose. During the winter a party of Sound Indians, under Pat Kanim, were employed by the Governor of Washington to operate against the enemy. They made an attack on the hostile camp, and quite a battle ensued. The employment of these Indians destroyed the confidence of the hostiles in each other very much, and a large party (about twenty-five warriors) seceded from the main body, and occupied the upper Nisqually country, whilst the stronghold of the majority remained in the vicinity of White and Green rivers.

Thus when these various columns of regulars and volunteers took the field, the Indians were badly provided for carrying on a war. Disaffection in their own ranks, and the winter having exhausted their supplies, they made but a feeble stand against the troops when they took the field, determined to break them up. They engaged the regular troops on White river, on the 1st of March, 1856, but fled before them as they charged upon them in their hiding places. The regulars after that could not induce them to fight.

On the 10th of March they made an attempt to retrieve themselves by an attack on Stevens' column of volunteers, at Tenalquot or Connell's prairie. After an entire days' sharp shooting, the Indians withdrew with the principal loss on their side; the superior rifles and marksmen among the volunteers were too much for them, and they gave up the contest by retreating with their main force over the Cascades to the Klikatats about the 18th of March.

Thus ended the war with the Indians on the Sound; some hard work was done in the way of scouting after stragglers, during the months of April and May. The party which seceded from the main body in February 1856, was entirely broken up. Old Lu-haldo, the principal man, and his son Ski-ki were killed, Sluggia was captured, and many other men, women and children were killed, and the others nearly all taken prisoners. This was done by separate parties of both regulars and volunteers; the latter, acting upon the principle of extermination, killed all they could, surrounding small camps with a large force; and though in no instance was a shot returned, they nevertheless insisted [illegible] regulars, [illegible] meeting [illegible] no resistance, captured them, and only in a few instances were any killed, generally when they attempted to run away. The one party was guided by the fixed rules of warfare, and the other, organized without law, had no law to guide it.

The war with the Indians having ceased, the volunteers under the direction of Gov. Stevens, commenced on some six or seven white men who were suspected of having been concerned in affording aid and comfort to the enemy. This lasted about two months, and was nearly as serious as the Indian war itself; as the white men received much aid and assistance from all quarters, Martial Law had to be declared. Gov. Stevens was defeated and the war closed by the little party marching off with all the honors of war.

In the Yakima country the war lasted some months longer. The Oregon volunteers after the affair with Peu-peu-mox-mox, were finally saved from starvation by the arrival of supplies, and anxious to increase the theater of war, crossed over on Snake river; but meeting with no enemy that would engage them, they returned through the Yakima country to the Dalles without any decisive engagement, although they lost several valuable lives, and many horses in skirmishes with the enemy. They were soon after disbanded.

One more expedition was organized, consisting of regular troops for the Yakima intending first to establish a post at Walla-Walla, and then invade the Klikatats; but the very day that it started Col. Wright was recalled to protect his rear—Kam-ai-a-kin had out-generalled him; he sent a small force of fifty or sixty warriors, and taking advantage of the absence of the troops from the Cascades, made an attack upon it; killing quite a number, and sacking the town. The return of Col. Wright caused these Indians to retreat.

Subsequently Col. Wright's expedition was directed to the Yakima country. He marched out in May, and confronted the enemy on the opposite side of the Nachess: Here the Indians made overtures of peace, and Col. Wright convinced by this time, in consequence of the com-

plete failure of all the expeditions that had been made both by volunteers and regulars into that country, that nothing better could be done for the good of the country, accepted their overtures. He felt perhaps as keenly as any one, what construction might be made of his policy. But, a foe so wily and evasive, that had avoided all attempts to chastise them, and proved themselves capable also of foiling him, it was by far the best to accept their propositions, to postpone the contest which will eventually follow, when it is evident that they must decline in power whilst we increase in the interim; and it is possible that the final contest may be postponed until the time, when it will be an easy victory to overcome them.

About the time that Col. Wright concluded these terms, Gov. Stevens, having no foe on the west side of the Cascades—for the hostile Indians had retreated to the Yakima country—and he had been brought to terms with the suspected white men by the aid of the civil courts; he sought for something for his volunteers to do. They were a heavy expense, and the necessity of their continuance had to be established by their doing something, so he sent Col. Shaw with about two hundred men into the Yakima country, anxious to co-operate with Col. Wright. They set out in June, but found that Col. Wright had all the Yakimas under his control, and was pursuing a policy so directly opposite to their instructions, that they were under the necessity of seeking still further for a field of operations, for Col. Wright declined their assistance.

The Gov. of Oregon having been exceedingly accommodating at one time and rendered the Gov. of Washington a personal favor by marching his troops across the line and fighting the battle of Walla-Walla, the Gov. of Washington determined to return the compliment. He therefore marched his forces into Oregon, and in July they came up with an unsuspecting camp of women and children at the Grand Roade who had made terms with Col. Wright and received quite a lot of flour, sugar, and coffee &c., killing a number, and taking away from them all the flour, sugar, and coffee which Col. Wright had given them. Had their terms of service allowed it, or the provisions been sufficient, they would probably have carried the war to the Rocky mountains. But the credit system was by this time nearly exhausted; scrip had run its length, and it was necessarily the last act of the war, although subsequently, when Gov. Stevens visited that country the Indians made an effort to revenge themselves, they only succeeded in simply repaying themselves for the flour and sugar they had lost at Grand Round, by helping themselves to his supplies.

During all this time the war between the regulars and volunteers continued, headed respectively by Gen. Wool, and Gov. Stevens, and their conflicting policies towards the Indians increased its bitterness. Gov. Stevens having exhausted his resources against the Indians, turned with renewed vigor upon the regular troops.

One great measure of Gov. Stevens for keeping up the controversy with the regulars, was that of insisting on the surrender of the murderers or those who committed the first acts of hostility, which amounts in fact, to the surrender of all their leaders. This duty he insisted that the regulars should do, without allowing them to judge of its propriety. [illegible] carrying out of such a measure would lead to a continuance of the war, a responsibility he did not wish to assume; for had he considered it such an essential measure, he could have carried it out himself. He had more troops at his disposal than the regulars, and might have kept them in the field until the end was accomplished, if his resources were equal to it. But no; he well knew that this party of the regulars was opposed to this, and for that reason he insisted upon it. It is true, that such might have been exacted as a condition of peace, but had it been required, peace would not have ensued. To insist on it afterwards, is entirely opposed to the rules of warfare.

He kept up the contest, and in 1857 secured the election of Delegate in order that he might change the scene of conflict to the floor of Congress, with a view to his ultimate success.

The war still continues, and in consequence of some of Gov. Stevens measures, it has assumed a rather different character. The main feature of the present state of affairs, is the case of Leschi. This Indian, having with all his people, concluded terms with Col. Wright, Gov. Stevens refused to regard the truce. He offered a reward of five hundred dollars, (probably out of the funds of the Indian Department, though not appropriated by law for that purpose) and succeeded by treachery, in bringing him in. Having been previously indicted by the Grand Jury of Pierce County, for the murder of A. B. Moses on the 30th of October, 1855, he was turned over to the civil authority and arraigned on that indictment. This occurred in November, 1856; the court failed to convict, and he was retained in custody until march 1857, when he was tried at Olympia—Gov. Stevens' head-quarters—and there an easy conviction was obtained. A writ of error, however, prevented him from seeing the accomplishment of his favorite measure, for he was compelled to leave for Washington City to take up the contest there, before the Supreme Court decided to refuse the writ of error, which took place in December, and Leschi was not sentenced to be hung until the 22d of January, 1858. This brings the matter down to our present time.

Gov. Stevens was relieved by Gov. McMullin, who being an old political hack, and entirely dependent upon popular favor, finding this hostility existing between the people and the military authorities, instead of doing his duty to reconcile the parties and bring about a peace, took up the platform of the mob, and opened hostilities immediately.

This Platform is as follows:

That though the military is the properly constituted authority for adjusting difficulties between whites and Indians, and are sent into the country for that purpose, we will not recognize them, and will oppose all their measures which do not fully coincide with our own.

That though the army is sent into the country to defend it, and they are the parties who should decide upon the necessity and means of defense and recommend measures, yet whenever we choose, we will carry on a war of our own and run up a war debt as large as we wish, and conduct the campaigns according to our particular views and policy.

That though the officers of the army are intelligent and educated gentlemen, and have specific instructions, and from the nature of their service should know all about Indians; yet they are entirely ignorant of their duties—their policy is all wrong, and unless we attend to the matter, the duty will never be performed properly.

That though they have high honorable positions to sustain, and their reputations depend upon their actions, they have no feelings for the whites; their sympathies are all with the Indians, they harbor and protect them, and try to prevent us from imposing on them, and wreaking our vengeance two or three hundred fold, and we will therefore regard them the same as the Indians, and consider them our enemies.

And finally, whatever their credentials are, they have no rights amongst us. All we want from them is to spend the public money with us, and shoulder the consequences which follow any of our acts of folly, and when we kick up a war with Indians, get whipped and driven from our homes and it becomes serious and dangerous, they must endure the fatigue and hardships, and carry out the bloody work for us. If an Indian is to be hanged, they must run the risk of catching him, and we will hang him. In short, they must do what ever we wish them to, and we will do whatever we please to do.

This platform, Gov. McMullin immediately adopted, and acted upon it. He commenced by planning a system of defence entirely independent of that which now exists. He recommended two new war steamers, as a thing which no one had ever thought of before. Had he recommended six, the idea would have been perfectly original. He recommended three companies of dragoons in the place of infantry, they being better calculated to get over logs and through brush, which in another place he said was the great obstacle of the troops, during the late war.

He took up the case of Leschi with avidity. The district court having convicted him, and the action of that court having been confirmed by the supreme court, he was sentenced to be hung on the 22d. The Governor then took it up and investigated it also. After having it fully proved that Leschi was not guilty of the particular [illegible] charged—that the Indian who did it, is living and known—that the reservation—that he was driven into the war by the hasty and inconsiderate measure of the acting Governor, and the people; and having been solicited by all the tribes on the Sound to pardon Leschi, as an act of friendship and peace towards the Indians, besides being informed that Leschi had with the other Indians made peace with Col. Wright, and had been perfectly friendly now for two years, and public policy and justice demanded that he should be set free; yet the military authorities asked his respite—until the President would be heard from—and seven hundred names to a remonstrance convinced him that such action would not be in accordance with the platform. He therefore applied to C. H. Mason, Secretary of the Territory for that legal opinion in writing, which he knew beforehand would be satisfied with nothing except the unqualified execution of Leschi without palliation.

On the 22d of Janury, 1858, the conflict with the people and the regulars was renewed with redoubled vigour. By the interference of the civil authority itself, Leschi was not executed on the day appointed. The charge was made, that the military had prevented his execution, and it offered a fine pretext for the renewal of hostilities.

Leschi since his arrest has been in charge of the guard at Fort Steilacoom, by request of the civil authority. The absurdity of supposing that the officers would lay a plot to prevent the execution of Leschi, does not seem to have occurred to them, when the thing might have been done in a much handsomer style by conniving at his escape from the guard-house. That they were gratified that Leschi was not hanged, they had a perfect right to be, for it proved to them, that they had friends in the the enemy's camp.

Gov. McMullin headed the mob, and and at an indignation meeting held in Olympia on the night of the 22d, denounced the officers of Fort Steilacoom in unmeasured terms; and said that if they had them there, they would hang them in the place of Leschi. The following night, the commanding officer was hanged—(in effigy)—with two citizens who were charged with having gone over to the enemy. The next morning Gov. McMullin opposed cutting them down, although they were supposed by the Sheriff to be quite dead.

Other indignation meetings were held in Thurston and Pierce counties, urged on by the Governor. Reports were received, and resolutions were passed, based upon the above platform. Fresh measures were taken to accomplish the execution of Leschi, as a move that would be severely felt by the regulars. The legislature changed the statutes so that the supreme court could be convened, and Leschi hanged immediately after the sentence. The court it was thought would be an effective engine against the troops. But Gov. McMullin and his party were much disappointed. Some of the regulars were arraigned before it, but the court refused to give battle. A volley of TRUTH TELLERS having been fired into them, and they were permitted to march off with military honors. The court simply contented itself with again sentencing Leschi to be hung on the 19th of February.

Such is the condition of affairs at the latest dates. The world is anxiously looking on at the probable fate of Lucknow and Fort Steilacoom. If the regulars can hold out until the President can come to their relief, they will be all right. A fresh assault will probably be made upon them on the 19th, and they will no doubt lose Leschi, but a heavy fire of the next TRUTH TELLER may keep the enemy at bay until succor arrives. God grant it!

TRUTH TELLER.

ANN ONYMOUS, EDITOR.

"*DELATE WA-WA.*"

Steilacoom, W. T., Feb. 25, 1858.

OURSELVES.

ANN ONYMOUS, when she made her former curtsy to the people, felt of course that diffidence which all Editors experience when they are called on, for the first time, to appear in public.

But ANN wishes to say that her reception has been so flattering that she is induced to appear before them again. She thanks the kind hearted and generous public, (always kind hearted and generous on reflection,) for the favorable notice they have taken of herself, and modest sheet—the TRUTH TELLER.

But she has something beside this to be proud of and rejoice over. Since the issue of the first paper, the eyes of the sensible portion of the citizens of Washington Territory have been opened, and they find that there are two sides [illegible] Many were very violent in their denunciations of the officers of the army, for an offence that only existed in their imaginations, have thought over their words and actions, and feel ashamed of their conduct. Some, too, have been noble and fearless enough to come forward and to state not only privately but in public, that they were mistaken.

The mass of the people see now that they were made the dupes of a few creatures who had private grudges against the military authorities, and who in the hurry and hubbub that followed the non-execution of Leschi, rushed to the stand, and glad of the opportunity, blurted out their foul mouthed vituperations with all the pent up filth and venom of their natures, and then slunk away into their former obscurity.

ANN ONYMOUS is glad—is happy—is delighted, to see this change, and she sends forth her second bantling, and hopes that all sensible people, and the decent portion of the press, will continue to uphold her efforts for "the dissemination of Truth and the suppression of humbug."

GOOD BREEDING.

The most elegant specimen of good breeding we have lately heard of, is to be found in the manuscript copy of a "Complete Life of Governor McMullin," shortly forthcoming. That highly accomplished gentleman, equally noted for his exalted idea of himself, and his contemptuous opinion of the people of Washington Territory, (who *to his surprise*, he confesses in his famous "Letter," "are quite as intelligent as those in the States,) was one morning taking breakfast at the hospitable board of a gentleman well known in the neighborhood of Steilacoom when with a womanly feeling that did honor to her heart, the wife of his host told the Governor that she "prayed he would respite Leschi," who was to be hanged for a deed he had never committed. Gov. McMullin having had occasion shortly after to address, an assemblage of citizens highly excited on the Leschi question, related with a sneer, and *without a blush of shame upon his face*, the conversation which had transpired at the table of his host, and held up the noble-hearted woman to the derision of a thirsty mob who "would have blood."

This violation of hospitality, and indeed of common decency, we opine to be a poor example to set among any people, especially among the sturdy farmers and hard working men of our community, to whom Home is a sacred thing, and the honor of whose firesides should be respected with a jealous care. Shade of Chesterfield! O Lord! Muggins!

PROGRESS OF THE AGE.

It is strange how rapidly fashions and customs spread from one side of the Continent to the other. Mose of Five Points no sooner commences the "Patent Safe game," and Jakey Sykes scarcely starts in the lucrative profession of "Garroting," than far out on the North-west coast, the Governor of a half settled Territory, animated perhaps by former associations, sets up on his own hook, the ancient and noble game of "Slung-shot."

"Slung-shot" in all its varieties, including the "Loaded cane," is said to have been used by the ancient Romans, and was probably derived by them from the Greeks, who made use of it in *their* "Olympic games." We lose sight of it in the darkness of the Middle Ages: but in modern history it again appears in the sloughs and slums of New York.

Scarcely, however, is it noticed in the Eastern papers, before we have it transfered to our own shores, and an unarmed citizen is stricken down about nightfall, by the very man of all others, who declaims loudest about infringing the laws, and who yet is the first to violate them. As an example is now set by the Executive of Washington Territory, we may expect in the next message to see the use of the "Slung-shot," the "Garrote," and "Brass-knuckles," recommended to be taught in our public schools, and the "Patent safe game" made the test of capacity in the rising generation.

STREET SCENE, NO. 2.

"I say Jim, that "*Sperm Cort*" has played the deuce has'nt it?"

"It has that! Who'd 'sposed that all this row was going to flash in the pan? One would have thought the law frustrated for certain. It was a good dodge to say so, but it would'nt work. They had two or three laws changed to suit Leschi's case and I think they might have passed one or two for them sogers, and put 'em through on 'em."

"Yes! But its no use, they would come right out in that TRUTH TELLER, and exposed the whole thing. You see how they put down what we said the other day. Folks is coming round and taking it all back. Which side are you on now?"

"Well, I don't know. I'm going to keep low for a while and see what's going to be done. I wish I had'nt made that speech at the meeting; some of those sogers may make me chaw my words. Did you sign those resolutions?

"Yes, d——n it. I thought from the way they talked, that every body was going to sign. I did'nt 'spose that they were going

to haul out when it came to putting their names down on paper, after talking so loud But there's some of them can't cover up their tracks.

"Yes, Old Muggins is in a bad way. He had to do something; so he goes and hits a chap over the head with a "billy" for reading that poetry in the TRUTH TELLER. He has let the cat out of the bag—he need'nt have worn the shoe unless it fitted him. He'd done better if he'd lammed the feller that wrote it, only he might have caught a Tartar."

"Yes—its the business of them sojers to fight—and it would be playing right into their hand. I think the whole thing is going to fizzle out. I guess that is all gas about the Governor sending the sogers out of the country. They don't seem to be much skeered. I rather think they would like it, should'nt wonder if they pitched into him all the harder if they thought they would get orders to leave.

"Well I can't say that I should like to see 'em go just now. People's getting awful uneasy on account of Leschi's hanging. The *Siwashes* have got no friends if the sogers go, and they would pitch into us right and left. Scrip isn't paid yet, and I think volunteers would be mighty scarce. You know they wanted us to go before, but I never liked fighting Ingens, and I think I'd rather leave the country if they pitch in again."

"That's my *Tum tum*. I guess, we had better dry up on this question and say no more about it; let the soldiers alone until we get a better chance at 'em. I guess I'll go down the Sound until the row is over. I'll come back when the coast is clear. By the way, I hope nobody has been watching us, they might have us down in the TRUTH TELLER again. It's hard to tell who is of the right stripe, for almost every one talks two ways. I'm going to dry up and clear out, *Clai-how-um*, old feller!"

THE LAMENT OF MUGGINS.

[Muggins (*solus*) is discovered, sitting in a corner of his office, with a copy of the TRUTH TELLER in his hand, and briny tears in his eyes, bewailing his fate and singing the following doleful ditty, to the tune of—The Floating *Scum* of Old Virginny.]

I've lately come from old Virginny,
And I think it very queer,
The people they plague me out of my life
And call me Muggins, here.
I know I'm old and stupid too,
And what can they say any more;
Then carry me back to old Virginny, [illegible]

Buchanan he used to feed me well
In the servant's hall below,
And I used to do the dirty work
That great men have, you know;
I was'nt content with what I got
I wanted something more;
Then carry me back to old Virginny,
To old Virginny's shore!

But if I had known the life I'd lead
By coming to Puget Sound,
I'd have bought a rope and hang'd myself
Ten feet above the ground;
For I never saw such a horrid set
In all my life before;
Then carry me back to old Virginny,
To old Virginny's shore!

I thought out here among the Pikes
And Indians, I would rule,
But the mob they have got me by the nose,
And made me a wretched tool;
The Pikes are a humbug out and out,
And Leschi's a dreadful bore;
Then carry me back to old Virginny,
To old Virginny's shore!

The Indians say that I *wake cum-tux*,
The Bostons say the same,
And the soldiers they know I'm an awful ass,
But I am not to blame—
The Lord did'nt give me brains enough,
I wish he had given me more;
Then carry me back to old Virginny,
To old Virginny's shore!

They're pitching into me everywhere,
And they laugh at all I say,
O I'd give all the niggers I ever had
If I could get away!
And I'd promise too, to Leschi's friends,
I would'nt come back any more;
Then carry me back to old Virginny,
To old Virginny's shore!

GAS-WORKS AT STEILACOOM.

One of the greatest privileges that American citizens enjoy, is that of assembling in mass meetings to express their opinions on momentous public questions, and consult with each other on subjects that affect the common weal. But important and essential as this right is, like all other good things, it is liable to abuse in direct proportion to its importance.

The late meetings at Olympia and Steilacoom relative to the "Leschi affair" are a startling example of the wicked and unjust use to which this glorious principle may be applied, and show how far from the bounds of decency, even respectable men can be led away, when they surrender themselves to the guidance of a lawless and clamorous mob.

The proceedings of the assemblages at Olympia on the 22d and 26th, and at Steilacoom on the 23d ult., their "motions" and "whereas-es" and "resolves" have been entirely set aside by the decisions of the Supreme Court, which has examined dispassionately, the charges made against the high-toned and honorable gentlemen, who were accused of having interfered with the execution of the law on the Indian Leschi, and has decided that no fault or blame is to be laid at their door. The letters in the first issue of the TRUTH TELLER, from the officers of the army stationed at Fort Steilacoom, speak for themselves; so that, inasmuch as the TRUTH TELLER, and the Supreme Court have entirely demolished the actions of the above named meetings, we would have let the matter drop; but it appears that a number of people in Steilacoom, returning like the dog to his vomit, were not content with one meeting, but seeing the temporary notoriety they were obtaining, got together again on the 26th ult., and endeavored to curry favor with the Olympians, and boot-lick the very individuals who have all along been seeking the aggrandizement of Thurston at the expense of Pierce County.

We are inclined to think that this is the first instance on record of a lot of men assembling together, voting themselves and their county to be unworthy of all respect, and then with the slavish submission of Chinamen, asking the people of a neighboring county to join them in damning themselves. It is like the conduct of "Meddie" in the play, who very amusingly went about, acknowledging he was a villain, and asking for goodness' sake, for "somebody to kick him?"

As the proceedings of the Steilacoom meeting on the 26th of January are decidedly rich, as well as stupid, we cannot let them pass in silence, and as they otherwise would be lost to the world, we propose to immortalize them in the columns of our modest paper. A committee of five (we omit their names, as we do not wish to dirty our snow-white sheet,) was appointed to draft resolutions, and after a short absence brought in the following "whereas-es" and "resolves."

The first *Whereas* states that Pierce County is "fast gaining a disgraceful notoriety," which the people have "long endeavored to ignore," and then goes on to say that "the said county of Pierce embraces within her borders a very large amount of *are-able* lands, also good *inland* roads, and fine *navigable* harbors." The second *Whereas* asserts that certain persons who were supposed to have been interested in preventing the execution of Leschi, "have complained that they have not had a chance to vindicate themselves," and the third *Whereas* notifies the crowd that "the hour appointed" for the people to succeed "now arrived."

That Pierce County has lately been gaining a disgraceful notoriety, we are sorry to say, is too true, but it certainly did not look well for the people to "ignore" it so long as it makes them accessory to the act. Query—Is there not a connection between the "disgraceful notoriety" and the destruction of the vast and valuable herds of Hudson Bay Co.'s cattle, a few years ago to be seen on every prairie in Pierce County?

With regard to the *arable* lands, we would like also to agree with the meeting, but we cannot find the word in the dictionary. We wish we could say something in favor of the *inland* roads, but since the last snow they are in a detestably muddy and sloppy condition. *Navigable* harbors rather puzzled us, not being sailor-men, but a friend at our elbow suggests that the word was put in by a personage whose legs being generally full of whisky, considered "navigation" about our harbor as elegant and expressive, as it was a thing difficult of attainment. With regard to the second *Whereas*, the meeting should have informed us who those citizens were who wished to vindicate themselves. We are inclined to think that this *Whereas* was thrust upon the meeting by some witty fellow (?) who thought that the persons present had better do something to get out of a bad scrape. The third *Whereas* is nothing but an alteration of the beautiful lines of the poet,

"Now's the day and now's the hour see the front of battle lower
We are down upon all wrats, Pikes and Poskes give them fits."

Upon these *Whereas-es*, which we have passed in review, are based the following *Resolutions*. It is a rule in drawing up all proceedings of meetings, that the *Resolutions* shall be deductions from the *Whereas-es*, and the logical sequences in this case will be evident to the meanest intellect. The first resolution is that our worthy sheriff is "a base hireling." This, we suppose, is founded on the first *Whereas*, and might be stated thus: There being a great many "*are*-able lands" in Pierce County, and George Williams being in Pierce County, therefore said Williams is a "base hireling"; the conclusion is inevitable. The second *Resolution*, *prays* that "the proper authority may move and disincumber" a certain "tool" but as Capt. Bachelder decidedly objects to such a preceedure we think it will not be attempted. Resolution third, is dead against a "*thing* that calls himself an Attorney." This of course, is a misprint like the word "*rediculous*" which follows, and which can only refer to the aborigines, unless we suppose it a typographical error. Resolution fourth, we presume, is a conclusion drawn from the condition of the "*Inland* roads" which being a decided "clog" in the present state of the weather, naturally suggests to the mind, that the military are a clog on the execution of justice. Resolution fifth does [illegible] based on [illegible]ing at all, and appears as an in[illegible] [illegible]nebody "did do or *shall*" on the [illegible], or "*previous* thereto," make enemies of the virtuous populace in mass meeting assembled. Resolution sixth avers that Dr. Tolmie is the Indian's friend and abettor. That he is a better and more charitable man, by a good deal, than his defamers there is no doubt, as he has supported with his cattle for years many of those who are now abusing him with the flavor of stolen Hudson Bay beef in their mouths, and beside at the present time is paying annually into the treasury of Pierce County the nice amount of $5,000 for taxes. That Dr. Tolmie actually assists Pierce County to such an extent that the people of Thurston have long desired to annex us to them, cannot be denied, and of course is a sufficient cause, and shows a large amount of gratitude to apply to him the term of a "blight and curse." Resolution seventh caps the climax and leaves the Leschi question entirely out. It relates to the subject of elections, and undoubtedly is a draft of some new law on that subject to be submitted at some future day to the Territorial Legislature, which was inserted here by mistake; if it refers to Leschi we never knew that he took any interest in elections, and had not the remotest idea that he had a right to vote. The equivocal compliment to Capt. Maloney expressed in the final resolution, forms a fitting close to the able, logical, grammatical and powerful document under consideration.

We now come to the names of the signers of the resolutions of the 26th of January, and we have taken the trouble to post ourselves up on their character and antecedents. With the exception of five persons who have always been considered gentlemen and responsible men, we do not find the name of a single old and respectable settler or of any decent man who has property or interests in the county. It will be recollected that there are in all, 80 signers; the number of votes polled in the county amount to about 300, leaving a large majority on the side of common sense that speaks well for this County.

These names may thus be conveniently analyzed:—4 notorious thieves; 2 jail-birds, who have served out their times in penitentiaries; 1 deserter from the army, who has had his head shaved, received *fifty lashes* and been drummed out of service; 10 discharged soldiers, (some dishonorably) the remainder having passed most of their time in the guard-house; 2 persons who have enticed away deserters, and are not allowed to come on the military reserve; 4 beach-combers and wreckers; 3 discharged employees of the Quartermaster's Department, dischargek for utter worthlessness, and who, consequently are very indignant; 4 natural-born idiots; 3 young boys, who of course are not responsible; 2 persons who are about to leave the country for the country's good. This beautiful lot comprises exactly one-half of the signers.

The remainder are not quite so bad: of these, 10 have come out like men and acknowledged their regret at having been guilty of such a shameful wrong. (30) still remain to be accounted for, some of these persons are what is commonly called *cultus tillicums*; some are carpenters employed at the station, and who made a *part* of their principles yield to the amount of $4 per day; 2 are backsliders from the Christian faith, of which they made such loud profession a few weeks since, the remainder are "men of straw," or perhaps *Kanakas*, of whom there are several in our community.

We wish to make no more comments; we simply record the facts. The people at large can judge for themselves, and learn how disinterested and honorable are the getters up of mass meetings in this section of country.

"HOMICIDE."

On the 19th inst, a homicide was perpetrated by the sheriff of Thurston County, in the vicinity of Fort Steilacoom by hanging the Indian chief Leschi, under an order from the District Court. Leschi was convicted of murder for killing A. B. Moses during the Indian war; the law requires that final process shall be served by the sheriff of the county in which it is ordered to take place, which by law must also be the county in which the crime was committed. As this occurred in Pierce County, the order to the sheriff of Thurston County was illegal on its face, and the execution might have been prevented by any one who chose to interest themselves in the matter; either by the commanding officer of Fort Steilacoom refusing to give him up on such an order, or the sheriff of Pierce County might have claimed him as his prisoner; or the sheriff of Thurston County might have been arrested on the affidavit of any citizen knowing that a crime was about to be committed. The matter was discussed by the friends of Leschi, and the execution would undoubtedly have been again interfered with, had there been any prospect that in the end Leschi's life would have been saved. He would have been no doubt re-sentenced again in March, and time would not have been allowed to have obtained the clemency of the President. Had his execution been prevented, the Olympia people would again have had an opportunity to howl, and to denounce the officers of the army and the people of Pierce County, for it might have deprived them of the privilege of putting another Indian out of the way contrary to law, for which they have sustained a reputation beyond any other place in the Territory. The interest which they take in this sort of thing is manifested by the fact, that the sheriff, and his party, consisting of twelve or fourteen persons, came down under private pay and patronage of the people of Olympia. A purse we are told, was made up by private contribution to reward these men for their *valuable!* services.

Leschi was hanged about 11 o'clock. A large *posse* was summoned in the county to assist at the execution. Very few beside the *posse* were present, and but few Indians. He was placed on the scaffold and an opportunity given him to speak.

He stated in substance, that now he was going to die he wished to be at peace with all; that he felt no ill-will towards the whites for what they had done to him. That among all people there always will be some who will lie; that there was one liar among the whites, and that he was not guilty of the offence for which he was to hang. He drew a parallel between his own ignominious death and that of Christ, and that he forgave all who were concerned in his death. That he did not wish to live any longer, that he had been confined for a long time and had been six times arraigned and was tired of life; that he wished to die and go to Heaven. He told his people, in their own tongue, not to think hard of the whites on account of his death, and always to remain at peace with them. He then made a short prayer, and on being asked if he was ready nodded assent. His hands and feet were then tied, the rope adjusted, the cap drawn over his face, and with some difficulty the plank was knocked away. He fell three or four feet, and after ten or fifteen minutes he ceased to struggle. He hung about an hour when he was cut down and his body taken to the reservation by the Indians.

Leschi was about forty-two years of age. His father was a Nisqually, and his mother a Klikatat. His brother, Quiemal was about ten years the senior; they lived together, generally on Muck creek, and pretended to live only by hunting and farming, but in the winter season they were often dependent on salmon. The two brothers were living near Gravel's, on Muck, when the war broke out. Quiemal was appointed chief of the Nisquallies in 1853 by the Indian Department, and as the war approximated the two brothers rose in importance, and were used as means of communication, and to obtain information as to what was transpiring among the Indians, their intimacy with the Yakima chiefs being favorable to that purpose.

It is incomprehensible, why Quiemal, having been made chief, should have been completely ignored at the treaty with the Nisquallies and his brother's protestations treated with insult. Some of the pure Nisquallies were exceedingly jealous of the two brothers, and fabricated such stories about them that they were immediately suspected of plotting against the whites. These suspicions disturbed them exceedingly, as they were no doubt true to a certain extent, for they seem to have been undecided whether to join the Klikatats or the whites, and probably discussed the matter often among other Indians to their own prejudice.

In this doubting state, good management would as readily have secured them to peace, as to war; but, charged with complicity, suspected of double-dealing, and required to abandon their farm, their herds and cattle, and go to Olympia, a conditional prisoner of the acting-Governor, Leschi hesitated and delayed, and when Eaton's rangers were sent to bring him in, he fled with his brother to the enemy. His course during the war seems to have been characterized by greater intelligence and humanity, than that of any of the other chiefs. He protested against killing women and children, and against pillaging and plundering the settlements. On several occasions during the war he had individual white men in his power, and his influence saved them from being killed by Kanaskut.

But Leschi's name seems to have become unaccountably familiar in the mouths of the people, and obtained a notoriety beyond that of any other Indian, and when hostilities ceased in the spring, he was exiled from the settlements. His position among the Klikatats seems to have been exceedingly uncomfortable, and in the fall he returned to the Sound country and skulked in the woods on the upper Nisqually until he was betrayed by his own people, occasionally stealing into the settlements and on one occasion offering to surrender himself to the commanding officer of Fort Steilacoom. The two brothers were inseperable. When Leschi was betrayed and brought in, Quiemal, anxious to ascertain the fate of his brother, followed him in [illegible] Olympia, and killed in the Governor's office by somebody [illegible] knows who, although he had a guard of seven standing round. However revolting this act may seem, his end was by far, preferable to that of Leschi; who, retained in confinement for sixteen months, repeatedly tried and sentenced, his death was prolonged with but little hope, and on last Friday he was unlawfully executed by a party of hirelings from Olympia under a show of legality from the District Court. We wonder whether the friends of Law and Justice will howl as they did on the 22d, over this last act in the tragedy.

Leschi died manfully, without fear or faltering, and his last words calmly given, must put to shame, if they have any feeling, those who have persecuted him and sought his death.

In a legal point of view his case is the most remarkable on record. He is perhaps the first man ever arraigned by the civil courts for an act of war, of which, in truth, he was not guilty. Convicted finally, by a jury which had prejudged him, all clemency was forestalled by the remonstrance of a prejudiced people, he was at last executed contrary to law. We sincerely hope it may never be cited as a precedent.

TO THE PUBLIC.

I was present at the meeting, held in the Church, at Steilacoom on the 22d day of January last, and was one of the committee appointed to draft resolutions.

At the time, I was laboring under much excitement. Since then, I have reflected upon the action of that meeting, and it is a subject of sincere regret with me, that I had anything to do with the meeting or its action.

WM. R. DOWNEY.

The undersigned begs leave to say to the public, that in signing the documents recently in circulation, relating to the "Leschi affairs," he was laboring under a great deal of excitement, and did not take time to consider whether the parties implicated were really guilty or not; but, that he has had ample time since for reflection, and has come to the conclusion that he did wrong, and takes this method of making a retraction.

MASON F. GUESS.

In justice to the persons unjustly censured in the resolutions passed at a mass meeting held, at Steilacoom, Jan. 26th, we deem it our duty, and a right due the persons wrongfully abused, to state that our names were placed upon those resolutions (not by ourselves) through FALSE and DISHONERABLE representations to us, of their contents; and that we shall in future, entertain the opinion expressed in the resolutions, of the person who misled us, instead of the individuals named in said resolutions.

SOLOMON HOLMAN,
JOSEPH HARVEY.

MESSRS TILTON and MASON, of Olympia, have also, sent to the *Pioneer and Democrat* a letter acknowledging that they were in error in supposing that the officers at Fort Steilacoom, had acted in any improper manner in relation of the non-execution of Leschi.

OUR LEGISLATURE.

We cannot omit to notice the pliant character of the Legislative body to the popular will. It has proved itself exceedingly accommodating. A drunken crowd was convened for the purpose of expressing their indignation at the commission of an imaginary wrong, by certain supposed individuals. On this one an act was passed convening the Supreme court immediately, to do something they did not know what, in this particular case. Another law was also changed, so that a man under sentence may be executed before the President can interfere, if there is any probability of the executive clemency being exercised. They passed a resolution approving of the course of the drunken and excited mob, which made wholesale charges against officers of the Army, the Puget Sound Agricultural Company, and certain Civil officers of Pierce county. They also, "Resolved, That they cordially approved of the manly and independent course pursued by Gov. McMullin in this affair." His manliness consisted in his heading the aforesaid mob and urging them on, by abusive and inflammatory speeches against the officers of the Army. In his refusing to grant a respite to Leschi, until the President could be heard from, on a remonstrance signed by men whose signatures were obtained under the false representation that a secret petition was in circulation for Leschi's pardon, after having it fully laid before him how unjust and impolitic it would be to execute him; and in his poking his head out of his window on a Sunday morning and forbidding the Sheriff to cut down certain effigies which disgraced the streets of Olympia. Also, afterwards, in his attacking a citizen of Olympia, on the street with a loaded cane, assigning as a cause: his reading an article in a public print, on the street, which he supposed alluded to himself, when everybody else was reading the same; but the real cause was to revenge himself for certain supposed wrongs that he dare not make known. These acts with their approval of Martial Law, and other similarly wholesome and judicious measures of a personal and private nature, reflect great credit upon this exceedingly accommodating and obliging Legislature.

LEGAL CALENDAR.

Two of the Judges of the Supreme Court, met at Olympia the 1st week of the present month—went up to the room where the term of the Supreme Court, (that was authorized by law,) had very recently been held, called in (for company) the Marshal, and perhaps a deputy, and one or two Bailiffs; and had a sitting which they characterized, as a "Special term of the Supreme Court, for Washington Territory."

The Judges then proceeded with a dispatch that it is presumed was thought becoming, to resolve, that immediate steps should be taken, to insure the issue of "a process," which would reach "*even to the life blood of a man!*"

The process was issued. The effort has been a successful one. The object of the sitting has been accomplished. But, we do not know whether the officers paid by the United States, have thought the service they have performed extra official, and therefore taken a small consideration, that has been proffered them for their usefulness, by the Territorial Legislature, or whether it has been by them declined.

It is known, however, that at that "Special term," the Judges made a rule on Capt. Bachelder, Williams, Kautz, McKibben and Clark to appear and show cause, before them, why an attachment should not issue for contempt. That the rule was made upon the strength of rumor, and nothing else, and that Madam failed to make a particle of show before their Honors for her charge, and that those gentlemen were all discharged.

TO MY FRIENDS.

Often, while attending to my usual business, my mind involuntarily reverts, to my action as one of the Counsel for the Indian Leschi; and also to the abuse, to which my having acted as Attorney for the Indian, has subjected me.

After much thought upon the subject, I am convinced, that I have done nothing in the premises, unprofessional, or that my duty did not demand; and entertain the opinion, that finally, I will not suffer, for having watched the interests of the prisoner to the "Bitter end."

As to the "mass meetings!" held at Steilacoom and Olympia, I regret very much, that gentlemen of my acquaintance were present, and lent an influence that procured the publication of such resolutions [illegible] the *Pioneer and Democrat*; because, I believe them, at the time to have acted, as they thought just and honorable, but, they were misled by the inflamatory statements of persons, who, from ignorance or some other less excusable cause, spoke and acted unjustly.

Of the slanderous effusions of the *Pioneer*, I have formed this judgment:—In common with all other citizens, I must take my turn and receive its harmless fire. It never has done any person any serious harm, and it is impossible for it to do so; because, every body, *any body* is above and beyond its treacherous attacks.

Respectfully,
FRANK CLARK.

FORT NISQUALLY, W. T. Feb. 10, 1858.

To the Citizens of Washington Territory:

On reaching Port Townsend on the 1st inst., on my return from a brief visit to Vancouver's Island, I saw in the "Pioneer and Democrat" of Jan. 29th, the proceedings of a Mass meeting of the the citizens of this Territory, held at Olympia, on the 22d and 26th of Jan., with the report of a committee, appointed by the meeting and a set of resolutions drawn up by that committee, and approved by said meeting. I also noticed in the "Pioneer" of Jan. 29th, the proceedings of an indignation meeting of the citizens of Pierce county, held in Steilacoom, on the 22d of Jan. In the report and resolutions passed at Olympia, as well as in the resolutions agreed upon at the Steilacoom meeting—I am censured for "officiousness in this matter," and having addressed to Gov. McMullin in behalf of the Indian Leschi, a communication "characterized by a stubborn disregard for the laws of our Territory, and the well being of our community," and going "entirely beyond the bounds of truth" in its statements. The 2d resolution passed at the Olympia meeting, is quoted entire, and reads as fol-

lows: "Resolved, That the whole course of conduct exhibited by Dr. W. F. Tolmie in this affair, has ben a voluntary and unjustifiable attempt to interfere with the execution of the laws of our Territory, with the bona fide citizens of which he has no interest, sympathy or affiliation whatever, and this conduc merits, and should receive the general condemnation of our whole people."

Had I reached home on the 2d Feb as in the ordinary course of traveling, would have happened, I would have last week addressed you in refutation of the above charges as far as I can understand their purport, but I regret not the delay, as this communication, may in consequence be received in a calmer and more considerate spirit, than, at an earlier date, could have been expected.

I am at a loss to conceive, what is meant by the allegation in the Olympia resolution, No. 2. that my whole course of conduct in the affair "has been a voluntary and unjustifible attempt interfere with the execution of the laws of the Territory," as, although the context in the other resolutions shows that the phrase "this affair" relates to the occurrences at Steilacoom on the 22d Jan, resulting in the non execution of Leschi, yet it is not anywhere asserted that I was either directly or indirectly concerned in the affair. That I was utterly ignorant till the evening of the 22d Jan, of what was to, and did happen at Steilacoom on that day, I now solemnly aver. I deny any complicity therewith.

In, I believe, all christian countries, a power is invested in the ruler of the land to respite, repreive or pardon condemned persons, and often in the criminal annals of Chrisendom it is recorded that this merciful prerogative has been exercised to the saving of innocent persons unjustly condemned to death, by fallible human judges, and juries. In this Territory the pardoning power lies with the Governor, and as he had intimated his intention, of re-considering Leschi's case, and requested myself and others to prefer our communications to him in writing, I addressed Governor McMullin a letter in Leschi's behalf, containing statement of fact and opinion, which I still believe to be correct. That letter is now published. And now comes the question why I, a foreigner, by birth and allegiance, should be so mixed up with your Indian affairs, and, in particular, why I should so interest myself in behalf of the unfortunate Leschi. The earlier American settlers in this Territory, and men conversant with its history, I am aware, need no explanation of my course of conduct, as I have had satisfactory evidences and avowals of their approval of it. To settlers of a later date then, and to persons who are by national or other prejudice prevented from taking a just and impartial view of my position, the following statement is submitted.

The Hudson Bay Company's post at Nisqually, was established in 1833, the summer of which year I spent here, then obtaining my first insight into the peculiarities of Indian character. Since the summer of 1843, I have resided at Nisqually permanently. In the summer of 1845, American citizens—Messrs. Jackson, Ford, Simmons, Crockett and others, began to settle on the prairies between Cowlitz river and the shores of Puget Sound. Mention was soon thereafter made to the Indians, that ere long they would be paid for their lands occupied by the whites; and, as the natives in turn came to enquire of me, the whiteman of their earliest acquaintance present, my oft repeated explanations, and injunctions to peace and good conduct on their parts, were the first instances of my interference. Till '49, nothing of importance occurred to interrupt the harmonious relations existing between the white and the Indians. American citizens on arriving in the country, among the native peaceably disposed and friendly towards them—guilty, only in rare and solit ry instances of petty delinquences which were easily checked, and differing widely, as some citizens of the Territory subsequently found, from the wild, untamed savages of Queen Charlotte's and the west coast of Vancouver's Island. In these days, I do not think that there was a white man in the country who did not entertain kindly and compassionate feelings, towards the Indians inhabiting the districts, now known as Thurston and Pierce counties.

In May, 1849, a sudden, and on our parts, unprovoked affray took place here with the Sequalmie Indians—then a comparatively savage and predatory tribe, but little acquainted with the whites—when an American citizen casually present and a mere spectator, was shot dead by the Indians. In getting the perpetrators of the murder delivered up, I rendered very material assistance to the Indian Agent of that period, J. Quin Thorton, Esq and to Captain B. H. Hill of the United States army, to whom at Steilacoom, in the fall of '49, were delivered up by the tribe, the six Indians, who, before May, three upon the whites; and the two most guilty of their number were soon after tried and executed at Ft. Steilacoom.

To the succeeding Indian Agents, E. A. Starling, Esq., and subsequently Col. M. T. Simmons, I rendered such assistance whenever requested.

During the summer and fall of [illegible] of Washington Army, I brought everything in my power to bear to preserve peaceful relations between whites and Indians. I had then, as Acting Governor Mason was, at the time, informed, visits from chiefs of almost every tribe dwelling on these waters, several of whom I had not previously seen for some years. The one object of these visits was to enquire of me, whether the evil consequences, so much dreaded, namely, banishment to an imaginary "sunless country," were really to follow the sale of their lands. Invariably, and in the strongest language applicable, did I endeavor to disabuse the minds of the Indians of these foolish fears. I also with equal earnestness assured them that they might rely on the promises of the "American chiefs" whose intentions towards them were in every respect benevolent. To such as mentioned the proposals of Yakama envoys to unite in war upon the Americans, I pointed out the wickedness as well the hopelessness of such an undertaking, as likewise the utter ruin it would bring upon themselves.

With Acting Governor Mason, I was during this period in frequent communication relative to Indian affairs, and well knowing that since the days of the Pilgrim Fathers, Indian wars have been usually inaugurated by treachery our monitors on their parts; especially were my efforts directed to prevent participation in the then impending war, on the part of Indians dwelling west of the Cascade mountains.

I do not remember having ever met Governor Stevens, subsequent to his return from the Blackfoot country in the winter of '55, '56, without having had lengthened conversations with him on Indian affairs.

In the summer of 1856, when he met the Nisqually Puyallup, and Nootsepe Indians near Steilacoom, to change their reservations, I was present by his special invitation, and acted as interpreter.

And now for the reasons why from first to last, I have interested myself in Leschi's behalf.

In 1843, the Puget Sound Company's flocks, and herds already numbering several thousand head, had overspread the prairies lying between the Nisqually and Puyallup rivers, and as in feeding off the pastures, they interfered with the root digging operations of the natives, discontent and ill-feeling occasionally arose on this account. Another and more frequent cause of actual disturbance was the poisoning of Indian hunting dogs by wolfe baits, or their being shot by the shepherds, when in the act of worrying sheep. In July, 1843 when I came to reside at Nisqually, an Indian was in irons, in one of the bastions, on suspicion of having fired at and wounded a Sandwich Islander shepherd with whom a few days before he had had a quarrel about the killing of a dog. Leschi and Quiemal, it was, had aided the whites in capturing the Indian, and they were then particularly known, the one, as Macallan friend, or "chikis," and the other as the friend of Taylor, these being the names of two white men who lived on the prairies, superintending the management of sheep. From that early day, the brothers were noted for their readiness to assist the whites on all occasions, and with first American settlers, they, I think obtained, a similar reputation.

In the fall of 1855, as mentioned more fully in my letter to Governor McMullin, now published, I pointed out Leschi to Governor Mason, as an Indian of superior shrewdness, who, if properly managed might be made very useful, in quieting the Indian panic and preserving peace. With this view, I suggested himself and brother as the fittest Indians to accompany Governor Mason on his visit to the natives of White and Green rivers—which they did, acting as interpreters and guides. On his return, in order to have the power of closely observing his movements, I gave Leschi employment, as horse-guard on the plains, where he would have been daily under the notice of white men, and whence, it is my opinion he would not have stirred for the winter, had he been left unmolested.

By those steps, and by subsequently enquiring of Mr. Rabbeson whether he knew Lesch, &c., as detailed in the evidence taken at his trials, I contributed to give the unfortunate man a notoriety he would not otherwise have had and which however operated much to his prejudice. On this account, and in remembrance of important services by him rendered in early days to myself and others, I have done my best to save Leschi from his from impending fate; and the "inward monitor" does not reproach me for any step taken in the matter.

Citizens of Washington Territory, having here as father of a family, and otherwise, like interests with with yourselves, I have throughout striven as far as my peculiar position amongst you, would admit of to avert from your borders the horrors of Indian war, than which, scarcely any calamity, more fraught with material and *moral* evil, can befal a young country. Whatever may be the opinion of some, I have myself the satisfaction of reflecting that my endeavors towards that end, whether appreciated or the contrary, have not been altogether without beneficial result to the community.

WILLIAM FRASER TOLMIE.

FORT NISQUALLY, W. T.,
Jan. 12, 1856.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY, FAYETTE MCMULLIN,
Governor, Washington Territory
Olympia, W. T.

SIR—Agreeably to your intimation, that applications, either for, or against the Indian Leschi should be made in writing, I now address you in his behalf.

I have long had a thorough conviction of Leschi's innocence of the death of the late Col. A. B. Moses, that opinion being based on the following facts.

At a Court Martial, held at Steilacoom on Indian prisoners in the spring of '56, whilst the war was still going on, and Leschi at large it came out as Lieut. Kautz, myself and others can aver, that Leschi at the time of the attack on Moses and party was many miles distant on a journey to the Yakama Valley.

Since the termination of hostilities and the return of the Nooscoops, Puyallups and Nisqually Indians to their homes, they have been freely questioned by the Indian Agents and various other white men as to the incidents of the war; the result being, as far as I know, and I have inquired widely of both races, that of the people in general, all who have concerned themselves in the matter, are fully satisfied that Leschi, being absent, took no part in the ambuscade of Moses and party; and is consequently innocent of the crime charged against him.

Having recently assisted Lieut. A. V. Kautz in measuring the wagon road from where in Connell's prairie, Mr. Rabbeson and party met the Indians, to the point of attack, and thence by a round about Indian trail, partly through timbered land and a swamp impassable for horsemen, back to the point of commencement, I became satisfied, and careful examination of the ground and accompanying explanatory declaration, will convince any one that it was impossible for the supposed Leschi with whom Mr. Rabbeson and his comrades conversed on meeting the Indians, to have, after their departure at a brisk gallop, mounted his horse and by going double the distance over a much worse road, to have intercepted and fired on the party where poor Moses was mortally wounded.

The Indian version of this unhappy affair, is as follows: They say that the ambuscade was planned by some Green river Indians, who being on the lookout at an elevated slope on Tinalquot or Connell's prairie, saw the travelers emerging from the woods to the eastward, and immediately thereupon, crossed through timber and swamp to the point selected for the attack; where, finding the Nisquallies journeying along the wagon road toward Tinalquot, they induced the ablest men to unite with them; while the women and children, old men and boys, kept on their route, meeting the party of whites at the edge of the prairie where the parley took place.

Mr. Kautz's plat, and accompanying affidavit, to the truth of which if required, I can testify, prove to a demonstration that admitting the possibility of Leschi's having been seen and spoken with at the edge of the prairie, it was impossible for him to have likewise been with the attacking party of Indians at the swamp. No proof therefore, remains of his guilt, and if innocent, his release should follow as equally a matter of humanity, justice, and good policy.

Having conversed on Leschi's case, with many persons in the Territory, I have occasionally heard the opinion expressed that even if innocent of the offence charged, he should be hung for this, that, or the other reason; each speaker taking the view of Leschi's culpability of most cogency with himself. Now, on this score, I would at present respectfully submit that altho' in my own opinion, enough in that way has already been done, the season for making, on grounds of expediency severe examples of Indians engaged in the war has passed away; as I now believe the natives throughout the Territory to be peaceably disposed, submissive, and east of the Cascade mountains, as Judge Yantis reports, extremely anxious for the complete re-establishment of friendly relations with the whites; than which, nothing would be more conducive to the well-being of Washington Territory.

I have known Leschi since 1848, as a well disposed, peaceable Indian, of superior ability, respected by his tribe and often refered to as an arbitrator in their disputes. Towards the whites he and his diseased brother, Quyeimal, were from our first settlement here in 1833, remarkably friendly, and in early years they on several occasions rendered valuable assistance in repressing thefts of horses and cattle on the part of other Indians. Col. M. T. Simmons, who was present, remembers how readily in 1849 the two chiefs volunteered their aid when we were in trouble here with the Snoqualimi. Leschi, I have learned, both from whites and Indians, who were present, at the treaty making at Medicine creek in the winter of 1854 '55, protested vehemently there, against the reservation originally appointed for the Nisquallies at Seilseilootzin on Nisqually bay.

I do not remember having had any conversation with Leschi specially on this subject till July 1855, when one Sunday morning, accompanied by another head man of the tribe, he came to state his grievances and ask my advice. He complained that he was kept in continual apprehension and uneasiness, on account of reports brought to him by Indians from Olympia, of his being obnoxions to the Agents there, and of their intention soon to incarcerate, and perhaps hang him. He and his companion then talked with great emphasis, of the unsuitableness of the reservation intended for them, and a passing Indian approaching to listen, they reproached him in bitter terms for having failed at Medicine creek to support their protest. I reminded Leschi of the tale-bearing and lying propensities of the Indians in general, and added, that, knowing himself guiltless of offence against either [illegible] to Olympia, and talk without fear to acting-Governor Mason. He shared at this time in the dread generally entertained by the Sound Indians; that be buying of their lands was a prelude to shipping them off in steamers to an imaginary dark, and sunless country; and the Indian Agents of that day will remember how wide spread and ineradicable that apprehension was—how an Indian seemingly convinced of its absurdity, would be back in a few days, as much alarmed as ever. In August and September '55, I saw Leschi several times, and could perceive that the threatening reports from Olympia still concerned him much. In October, Gov. Mason, to whom I then, or in September, pointed out Leschi as an Indian in the event of hostilities, likely to be very useful to the whites if with them, and formidable if the contrary—hearing evil reports of him from Indian enemies, and I believe from whites likewise, exacted a promise from Leschi, that he and his brother Quyeimal would forthwith move with their families into Olympia; but the two brothers while yet uncertain whether to go or not, having notice from Indians, that next day a party of whites were coming to seize them, fled in the night, leaving their families behind; and next day when Capt. Eaton and the rangers reached their place of residence, the families were still concealed in the woods close[illegible]

Leschi has been greatly blamed for going off on this occasion, but to any impartial person acquainted with the circumstances of the case, and the condition of this country at the time; his conduct will seem natural enough. He seems to have lingered in uncertainty till the last, and to have gone off at length, under the strong impulse of fear for his personal safety. He maintains, and I have heard it from others, whilst he was yet at large, that Quyeimal and himself intended going direct from Nisqually to the Yakama country, where they had numerous relatives, but were induced to remain at Green river by the threats of Kynaskut and Kutsap, chiefs there, to follow and assassinate them, if they persisted in going on.

Again, Leschi is erroneously supposed by many, to have, in the spring of 1855, gone as far south as Rogue river, stirring up the natives to hostilities against the Americans. He came to this place in the spring of '55, to purchase necessaries for a journey to Albany, O. T., which has given rise to this report, and, bringing me a letter from that place on his return. I knew, when the Rogue river story came out, that owing to the brief period of his absence, it could not be true, and I have accordingly contradicted it on all occasions. Before setting out for Albany, Leschi informed me that he was going thither, to bring home a relative of his, taken to Oregon in 1849, by the Indian Agent of that day, J. Quinn Thornton, Esq. On his return he brought me a still extant letter from Mrs. Thornton, stating the youth's unwillingness to leave them, and requesting me to tell his relatives no longer to seek his return.

Leschi has lately informed me, and his statement is corroborated by others, that he wanted his cousin from Albany to be interpreter for the Nisqually tribe, as in dealing with the whites on such momentous affairs as the sale of their lands, he felt the great disadvantage the Indians labor under, in having no better medium of communication than the Chenook jargon. Finding however that his cousin had forgotten the Nisqually language, he did not urge his return. Doubtless in going and returning he conversed with Indians along the route on the absorbing topics of the day—the sale of the lands, and the overpowering fears of the Indians as to what was to follow, as well as on the resistance to be offered, should the much dreaded transportation measures be really attempted; but in this, he was no more guilty than the others, although his name has become more prominent. On his return in 1855, he stated in delivering the letter, and he adheres to it yet, that white men along the route assured him that frightful evils were impending over the Indians in consequence of the sale of their lands. I will suppose further that being by the mother's side a Yakama, and a near relative to the chiefs of that tribe, he may have held himself bound to have joined that tribe, in the event of hostilities regarding the relinquishment of their lands. My own belief, however, has always been, that neither Leschi nor Quyeimal would have taken up arms, unless virtually driven from their homes, as they were, indeed the latter had already commenced plowing his field for fall wheat, when frightened into running away. Governor Mason urged these Indians to go to Olympia, in part for their own safety, as some whites were threatening them, but that was to them the lion's den.

During the heat of the war, Leschi has the credit of having twice interposed successfully between Kynaskit and some defenceless white men, whose lives the latter sought; and again, while Kynaskit and Kutsap were absent, attacking the town of Seattle, he got possession of, and sent to Fort Steilacoom, a captive white boy—whose life with the Indians, was constantly in danger.

Leschi was also opposed to the commission of depredations in the unabandoned settlements, and it was after a violent altercation with him on this account, that Sluggia and others disliking his severe discipline, moved to the upper Nisqually, whence issuing, they subsequently killed Indians in general, and added, that, knowing [illegible] turning from the Yakama Valley, led off across the mountains, the remaining stragglers, who had evaded the pursuit of the regulars and volunteers, and, whose latest act of mischief was the burning of Glasgow's barn—by which, it must be admitted, he rendered the country good service.

In summer of '56, Leschi with the other chiefs made peace with Colonel Wright in command of the regulars in the Yakama Valley, after which general pacification, and as the Indians phrase it, "laying aside of guns and angry feelings" they lived for sometime in friendly intercourse with the soldiers. In the fall of '56, the Nisquallies returned home, and were placed on a reservation much more to their liking, than that originally fixed upon. In October, Leschi came, and, as I was the first white man he ventured to meet, he desired me to acquaint the Americans, that if they needed that assurance, he would cut off his right hand in proof of his intention never to fight them again. He expressed his willingness to surrender to Colonel Casey commanding at Fort Steilacoom, but that officer considered it most prudent that Leschi should for a time remain in the woods as prejudice ran high against him. Soon after, tempted by a large reward, Sluggia entrapped Leschi by treacherous promises of complete reconciliation with the Olympia white chiefs, and he was soon after imprisoned on the [illegible] which has led to his condemnation.

The capture and imprisonment [illegible] greatly surprised the Indians, and in particular those east of the mountains who had been present at the pacification with Col. Wright. His execution now for an alleged offence, the Indians one and all believe him innocent of, would greatly outrage their notions of justice and weaken that confidence in the plighted faith of the "white chiefs" which it is so desirable they should be fully possessed with. Among the warlike tribes east of the Cascade mountains, the hanging of Leschi at this late day, would under the circumstances awaken strong feelings of distrust and dissatisfaction towards the Americans, and it is not unreasonable to suppose, might leave them open to Mormon overtures, which otherwise, would not be listened to.

I have from the first, considered your proposal to send some of the leading Indian chiefs to Washington, as, if carried out, a master stroke of policy. During the absence of these chiefs, we would have full security for the peace of the country and white men could go through the Yakama Valley to the but partially explored gold country near Colville, in large or small parties, in safety. With Leschi executed however, it would be difficult to prevail on the right sort of Indians to be sent, to place themselves in the power of the whites, as they would, of course, be very suspicious and distrustful. With Leschi pardoned and free on the contrary, he might be most usefully employed as emissary to these Indians, to bring about the desired consummation. Our Territory needs population and the sooner its good name is re-established as a safe field for immigration, the better will it be for all whose interests lie on this portion of the American continent.

I am Sir, Your very obedient serv't,
WILLIAM FRASER TOLMIE,
Chief Factor Hudson Bay Co.,
Agent, Puget Sound Agricultural Co.
Nisqually, W. T.