

become the real and proper burden of war.

To coerce obedience to our temporary government would at once destroy the great object which called it into existence, the peace and harmony of our country. Anxiously looking forward to that happy period when we should again be under the protection of our revered and parent republic, we have rather endeavored to maintain peace by forbearance, than to command obedience by force, hoping that the dangers and difficulties to be apprehended from domestic discord, and from the savages around us, would be postponed until we became an acknowledged people, and under the protection of our mother country.

The action of your honorable body, in regard to the lands in Oregon, would seem to justify the expectation that liberal grants would be made to our citizens; yet the uncertainty of our title, and the uneasiness which is felt upon this subject, urges us to press it upon your attention.

Our citizens, before leaving their homes in the United States for Oregon, have had the strongest inducements held out by Congress to settle in this country, and their just expectations will not be met short of a liberal donation of land.

On the subject of filling the offices that will be created in the event of the extension of the jurisdiction of the United States over this territory, your memorialists would respectfully represent, that, as the pioneers of the American population in this country, the present citizens of Oregon have strong claims upon the patronage of the general government, and that it would be gratifying to have them filled by our fellow citizens; but, as few of an equally deserving number can enjoy this mark of approbation of our parent republic, and in view of our peculiar and difficult situation, it is the opinion of your memorialists, that it will be better for the future prosperity of our country, and that the great masses of the people will concur with them, in requesting that important and responsible offices created here, such as the office of governor and the several judgeships, should be filled with men of the best talent and most approved integrity, without regard to their present location.

If it be at all the intention of our honored parent to spread her guardian wing over her sons and daughters in Oregon, she surely will not refuse to do it now, when they are struggling with all the ills of a weak and temporary government, and when perils are daily thickening around them and preparing to burst upon their heads.

When the ensuing summer's sun shall have dispelled the snow from the mountains, we shall look, with glowing hope and restless anxiety, for the coming of your laws and your arms.

The accompanying documents will afford additional information concerning some of the subjects of which we have spoken.

To insure the speedy conveyance of these papers to the federal government, your memorialists have elected Joseph L. Meek, esq., a special messenger to the same, and respectfully ask your honor-