

SPEECHES
OF
PRESENTATION *and* ACCEPTANCE
OF THE
OIL PAINTING OF
DR. JOHN McLOUGHLIN,
DELIVERED BY
HON. JOHN MINTO,
AND
His Excellency, Sylvester Pennoyer,
GOVERNOR OF OREGON.
IN THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 5, 1889.



SALEM, OREGON:
FRANK C. BAKER, STATE PRINTER.
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PROCEEDINGS

—IN—

JOINT CONVENTION.

[*TAKEN FROM THE HOUSE JOURNAL.*]

EVENING SESSION.

House met pursuant to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

The Speaker instructed Clerk to notify the Senate that the House is ready to receive that body in pursuance of S. C. R. No. 8.

Soon thereafter, the Senate of the State of Oregon came within the bar of the House, and the joint assembly was called to order by the President.

The Clerk of the Senate called the roll of the Senate, and all the Senators were present.

The Clerk of the House called the roll of the House, and all the members were present.

The President directed the Clerk to read S. C. R. No. 8, and the report thereon relative to the meeting of this joint assembly for the purpose of receiving from the Oregon Pioneer Association the oil painting of Dr. John McLoughlin.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8.

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House concurring:

That the two houses meet in joint convention Tuesday evening, February 5, 1889, at half past seven o'clock, for the purpose of hearing the addresses of Hon. John Minto and His Excellency, Governor Penoyer, upon the presentation of the oil painting of Dr. McLoughlin to the State of Oregon, and its acceptance by the State.

[Adopted January 30, 1889, and concurred in by the House same day.]

On motion of Senator Watts, a committee of two was appointed by the President to retire and introduce His Excellency, the Governor, and Hon. John Minto.

The chair appointed Messrs. Watts and Earhart as such committee.

The committee retired and soon returned, accompanied by His Excellency, the Governor, and Hon John Minto, who were escorted to seats on the rostrum.

On motion of Mr. Earhart, Mr. Joseph Watt, of Yamhill county, President of the Oregon Pioneer Association, was invited to a seat upon the rostrum.

The President then introduced Hon. John Minto, who delivered the following

ADDRESS OF PRESENTATION.

Governor and Representatives of the State of Oregon:

At the request of the Oregon Pioneer Association, I appear before you in its behalf, to present to you, for placement amongst those of the notable men of this yet young commonwealth, the portrait of the most potent friend and benefactor of those who planted the seeds of peace and social order in this fair land.

Of Dr. John McLoughlin's origin, we have little precise information. Such as we have indicates that he was of a Highland Scotch family, born in the Canadian province of Quebec, educated as a physician, but joining while yet young the Canadian association of fur traders known as the Northwest company, and soon rising to prominence amongst his associates. His subordinate, friend, and admirer, Dr. W. F. Tolmie, tells us that "when, in 1821, the Northwest company and Hudson's Bay company coalesced, Dr. McLoughlin strove sturdily for better terms for those bearing the burden of the work in the fur country as against the London Directory, (the contest being in fact a struggle of labor against capital) and

refused to sign the deed, poll or agreement between the London shareholders and their commissioned officers in Rupert's Land and the far Columbia. Notwithstanding this self assertion, Dr. McLoughlin, on account of his high character and practical ability, was detailed for the Columbia in 1823." Assuming charge in 1824, he became virtually autocratic ruler of all the country then known as Oregon, extending from the Rocky mountains to the Pacific, and from California to Alaska. From Dr. McLoughlin's own hand we have the statement of the first beginnings of agriculture in this now teeming region, by the planting (under his direction) of "potatoes and peas in 1825, and the reception from York factory in the fall of the same year, of one bushel each of wheat, oats, barley and corn, and one quart of timothy seed; which was planted in 1826. From this small beginning the crop in 1828 was such as to enable the post at Vancouver to dispense with the importation of flour, etc." At this date of 1828, he tells us that he "gives to Etienne Luceir his advice to settle in the Willamette valley as a farmer, expressing the opinion to him that wherever wheat would grow, the country would be settled."

From this date we see him assisting settlers without regard to nationality, and for reasons of "morality and policy," refraining from trading in spirituous liquors, and

persuading American traders to the same course. From a stock of cattle numbering but twenty-seven head of all sorts and ages in 1825, he loaned two cows to each settler, and oxen for teams, while resolutely refraining from killing any for food for himself, his officers or employes, until 1838, when "the first beef was killed for use at Vancouver."

We see him, in this matter of domestic cattle, thus denying himself and almost mutinous subordinates two years after he had assisted (by more than one-third of the money outlay) in the laudable effort of the American settlers and missionaries to procure cattle of their own, so as to be independent of the Hudson's Bay company in that respect. Yet, we see him in wise care for the needs of his own employes and those of the increasing settlers, one year later (1839) refuse to supply the British squadron under Sir Edward Belcher, with beef, for which refusal Captain Belcher complained of him on his return to England.

Thus we see Dr. John McLoughlin, with almost paternal care, encouraging, guiding and guarding the beginnings of settled industrial life in Oregon. Standing on the high plane of a Christian gentleman, who sees for himself a duty to mankind above the race, national, sectarian,

and business interests, which are closing in contending lines around him, he

“ Welcomes the coming, speeds the parting guest,”

With a true Highland hospitality, to the best within his control. After sixteen years, with almost absolute power for good or ill over Oregon, during which time he has acted the good Samaritan to unfortunate traders, kept open house for scientific explorers, made welcome travelers for information or pleasure, advised and assisted to locate missionaries like Jason Lee, and bound to himself in bonds of personal friendship failing traders, like Nathaniel J. Wyeth, and devoted missionaries like Whitman and his noble wife—he stands ready to receive in the same spirit of generosity the first overland immigrants as home builders (in 1840) whose increasing numbers, in a few more years, take the dominion and government from his hands.

Hon. P. H. Burnett, (who was influenced by his counsel and a recipient of his aid and hospitality) from an intimate personal acquaintance, says: “ Dr. John McLoughlin was one one of the greatest and most noble philanthropists I ever knew.” The Hon. M. P. Deady, in his scholarly address to the Oregon Pioneers in 1875, said of him: “ Had he but turned his back upon the early missionary and settler and left them to shift for them-

selves, the occupation of the country by Americans would have been seriously retarded and attended with much greater hardship and suffering than it was. * * * * *

He was a great man, upon whom God had stamped a grandeur of character which few men possess, and a nobility which the patent of no earthly sovereign can confer." The Hon. J. W. Nesmith, who served his day and generation as a pioneer, in the forum and in the field, speaking from his own knowledge as an immigrant of 1843, says: "Dr. John McLoughlin, then at the head of the Hudson's Bay company, from his own private resources, rendered to the new settlers much valuable aid, by furnishing the destitute with food, clothing and seed, waiting for his pay until they had a surplus to dispose of. Dr. John McLoughlin was a public benefactor, and the time will come when the people of Oregon will do themselves credit by erecting a statue to his memory. Of foreign birth and lineage, he gave the strongest proof of his devotion to republican institutions by becoming an American citizen while all his personal interests were identified with the British government. Thus far, detraction and abuse have been his principal reward." These are the words of three men who labored as master builders upon the foundations of this commonwealth. The truth of history will fully vindicate them.

To the assistance given the immigrants of 1843, as described by Col. Nesmith, I can add, as an eye witness, that those of 1844 received the loan of boats in which to descend the Columbia river from The Dalles (there being no road across the Cascades); the hungry were fed, the sick cared for and nursed, and not the least was the fact that many of the employes of the Hudson's Bay company followed the good Doctor in their treatment of Americans. Especially was this the case in the settlement of retired Canadians, who almost worshipped him. This settlement was a magazine of supplies, a hospitable, orderly community. Its existence as early as 1834 enabled Dr. McLoughlin to send Jason Lee into this vicinity "to sleep in peace and safety in a garden of cucumbers and melons," on the farm of Joseph Gervais. In 1836, according to Lieut. Slocum (the first agent of the United States government who came here to see the condition of American citizens), a surplus of 5,000 bushels of wheat was to be had. The existence of this settlement fully justified Dr. McLoughlin in advising Lee to locate here, and from acting on that advice has grown the fact that we now see over against this capitol, dedicated to the welfare of humanity, with trust in God, the Willamette University and other buildings, dedicated to Christ and humanity.

In 1841, when Commodore Wilkes, the second observer in behalf of the United States, came, the population ac-

cording to Sir George Simpson (governor of the Hudson's Bay company), was 500—sixty Canadians, with Indian wives and half-breed families, and sixty-five American families. There were then in the country 3,000 head of cattle, 500 horses, besides an uncounted number of hogs. The wheat crop was 35,000 bushels, from 120 farms, with a due proportion of oats, barley and potatoes. The price of wheat was $62\frac{1}{2}$ cents per bushel, for which any goods could be drawn from the Hudson Bay company's store, except spirits, at 50 per cent. advance on London cost. In addition to this production of the settlement planted by Dr. McLoughlin, there was a 700-acre farm at Vancouver, managed in the best style of North British farming, and large quantities of pork and salmon were put up, so that when the first considerable immigration of 1842 came, there was grain enough in the country for one year's supply, and much other food. But, as they brought information of the larger immigration to come in 1843, the Doctor saw and acted upon the necessity of securing a corresponding increase of seed to be sown, so that the increasing number of consumers might find an increased provision for their support.

These were the considerations which underlay his liberal and judicious treatment of the immigrants of 1843 and 1844, of furnishing immigrants who needed not

only what would relieve their immediate wants, but seed and assistance in opening farms, so that there might not be a famine in the country in 1845 and succeeding years. The children of Isarel had their Joseph in Egypt. John McLoughlin was the Joseph of the early home-builders of Oregon.

But no statement of the treatment the settlers received at the hands of Dr. McLoughlin would do justice to his twenty-two years of rule over Oregon without some notice of his dealings with the native race, and its effects in making the beginning of settlements comparatively safe.

He dealt with the Indians upon the fundamental idea that all men, civilized and savage, have an innate love of justice, and will therefore ultimately be best satisfied with fair, honest dealings. The goods he used in trade were plain, solid, substantial, and as cheap as they could be made in the civilized world; adapted to meet their wants, and sold at prices uniform and moderate. He never deceived Indians. He never knowingly punished one Indian for the crime of another. He never punished many indiscriminately for the crime of one. But he followed the one criminal with relentless persistence until he was brought to justice. In one notable instance, he made the Indians execute justice on each other. This was when the American trading party under Jedediah

Smith, eighteen in number, was set upon and fourteen of them murdered near the mouth of the Umpqua. Smith and two of his men, who were absent from camp when the massacre occurred, and one other, reached Vancouver in forlorn condition. They were not only cared for, but Dr. McLoughlin took such measures as recovered three thousand two hundred dollars' worth of Smith's property and restored the same to him without cost. And, by telling the Indians who purchased the stolen goods of the murderers, to look to them for their pay, the murderers were more effectually punished by the tribal war which resulted than even the Hudson Bay company's power could have done.

I will mention one instance of the arrest and execution of a single Indian, one of two who had for purposes of robbery murdered a servant of the Hudson's Bay company, while asleep in his tent, on Sunday afternoon, at Pillar Rock, on the lower Columbia. The Indians fled toward their own country up the north coast. One was killed in the first pursuit, the other was taken as a prisoner to Astoria, where he escaped. He was retaken, after causing the death of two women, disguised as men, who were assisting him. There was no question of his guilt. Dr. McLoughlin, in order to make the lesson of his execution impressive to the Indians, invited the leading men amongst them, and all classes of the settlers and missionaries to be

present. He made the arrangements for the event in a way best calculated to strike terror to the Indian mind, and, when all was ready, with his white head bared, made the Indians a short and earnest address, showing them that the white men of all classes, Englishmen, Americans and Frenchmen, were as one man to punish such crimes. There is no doubt his treatment of the participators in the murder of Smith's party made the settlement of Umpqua valley more safe than it would otherwise have been, and there is just as little doubt that the execution at Astoria in 1841 had that result on the lower Columbia.

During the latest period of his administration, while Dr. McLoughlin was pursuing this wise and humane policy toward the American immigrants, he was entertaining two emissaries of the British government as residents at Vancouver. For sometime before the settlement of the boundary question England kept two such agents in Oregon, one of whom, in the later years, was the son of Sir Robert Peel, the then prime minister of Great Britain. There was also an observer in the interest of the company he served, living in the closest relations with him, and, in addition to these, his subordinates (part of whom were intensely loyal to England) kept up a constant bickering about the Doctor's Oregon City claim, and "his nursing of vipers" by the advances he made to the Americans. To all fault findings he says, in his pos-

thumous paper, "it may be said, and it has been said, that I was too liberal in these advances. It is not so, but it was done judiciously and prudently." The pioneers of Oregon were not, and are not, ingrates. They deplore deeply the wounds their friend and benefactor received from self-constituted champions of diverse national interests, from sectarian bigotry, or from political ambition. That he keenly felt such, we learn from the paper from which I have already quoted, concluding: "To be brief, I founded this settlement, and prevented war between Great Britain and the United States, and for doing this peaceably and quietly, I was treated by the British in such a manner that, from self respect, I resigned my situation in the Hudson Bay company's service, by which I sacrificed \$12,000 per annum, and the Oregon Land Bill shows the treatment I received from the Americans."

In this sad summary of such a life as Dr. McLoughlin's, there is a statement that merits our attention, which, if ever proven true (and no man that ever knew Dr. McLoughlin will doubt that he believed it true—namely, that he prevented war between Great Britain and the United States, will show that two of the greatest nations on this earth owe him a debt of gratitude, and that Oregon in particular is doubly bound to him as a public benefactor. (British state papers may some day prove all this.) It is now twenty-six years since the legislative assembly of the State of Oregon,

so far as restoration of property to Dr. McLoughlin's family could undo the wrong of the Oregon land bill, gave gladness to the heart of every Oregon pioneer worthy of the name. All of them yet living now know that (good man as they believed him) he was better than they knew. They see him now, after the strife and jealousies of race, national, business and sectarian interests are allayed, standing in the center of all these causes of contention—a position in which to please all parties was impossible, to “maintain which only a good man could bear with patience”—and they have adopted this means of conveying their appreciation of his great forbearance and patient endurance, combined with his generous conduct. Looking then at this line of action in the light of the merest glimpses of history known to be true by witnesses yet living, can any honest man wonder that the pioneers of Oregon, who have eaten the salt of this good man's hospitality—who have been eye witnesses to his brave care for humanity, and participators of his generous aid, are unwilling to go to their graves in silence, which would imply base ingratitude—a silence which would be eloquent with falsehood.

Governor and Representatives of Oregon, in recognition of the worthy manner in which Dr. John McLoughlin filled his trying and responsible position, in the heartfelt glow of a grateful remembrance of his humane and

noble conduct to themselves, the Oregon pioneers leave this portrait with you. Hoping that their descendants will not forget the friend of their fathers, and trusting that this gift of the men and women who led the advance which has planted thirty thousand rifles in the valley of the Columbia, and three hundred thousand when needed in the National domain facing the Pacific ocean, will be deemed worthy of a place in your halls.

The President then introduced His Excellency, Governor Pennoyer, who, on behalf of the State of Oregon, delivered the following

ADDRESS OF ACCEPTANCE.

*Mr. President, Respected Sir, Members of the
Joint Convention, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

On behalf of the State of Oregon, I extend through you, sir, to the honorable Association of Pioneers, the thanks of the people of this commonwealth for the present you have now made to the State. This gift is alike creditable to the venerable men of your association in its bestowment, and to the State of Oregon in its acceptance. It does honor to the pioneers of Oregon, because it shows

their full appreciation of the high qualities of a true and a noble manhood, and the placing of this painting in the honorable position it now occupies, in the Senate hall of the State capitol, evinces a like appreciation on the part of the representatives and the people of this great State. Dr. John McLoughlin was indeed a most extraordinary man. Entrusted with a most responsible position under the British flag at a time when there was a bitter contest for governmental supremacy in Oregon, it was the undoubted and honorable wish and promptings of his heart that the flag of his country might continue to wave over Oregon soil; and yet, in instances repeated without number, he extended the hand of charity and unstinted aid to the poor immigrants of the contesting people, whose advent here threatened the supremacy of his government over the contested territory. While he was loyal to his country, he was, as became his lofty character, more loyal to his conscience, and, while never forgetting his full allegiance as a Briton, he never forgot his higher duty as a man. The love of country is a commendable love. No devotion is too strong for the land of our birth and for the government that has protected us in youth, shielded us in manhood, and which constitutes our security in declining years. In its defence, its loyal sons will tread with fearless step the ensanguined field and

face with unflinching courage the bayonet's charge or the cannon's sweeping hail. But above and beyond this love of country is that greater love and that broader and more catholic spirit which prompts the true heroes of every nation to extend to the suffering of their own race, though met as foemen on the battle plain, the cordial hand of Christian charity. The soldier, when he gives a cup of water to a wounded foe, is a grander hero in the sight of Heaven than when he bravely struggles in the battle van. To love your country is the service of every citizen, enjoined by duty and the law of the land, but to love your fellow man is a higher obligation enjoined by conscience and the law of God. And to do honor to the memory of a man whose charitable deeds were bestowed to alien supplicants in the mere love of mercy, and who never turned his face from any poor man, is simply to reflect honor upon ourselves.

It is indeed the spirit of divinity itself, that prompted the angel to write in letters of living light Ben Adhem's name above all other names, because he, more than all his other brethern, had truly loved his fellow man. We rear the stately shaft to the memory of those who fell in defence of their country, and we perpetuate the recollection alike of heroes and statesmen, by statues wrought of solid marble or enduring bronze, but those men who

have done quiet deeds of kindness and charity all along the pathway of their life's duty, need neither shaft nor statue to keep alive the recollection of their noble deeds. It will forever live in thankful hearts and be handed down from grateful sire to son. And, more than this, in that great beyond, where the character of every man will be tested in the light of eternal truth, the humble and unostentatious givers of good gifts to the poor of this world will outrank in dignity and honor the avaricious possessors of millions of earth's sordid dross, or the recipients of the highest of earthly fame and honor. Then let the picture of the grand old man whose numerous deeds of charity are inseparably interwoven in the early history of our State ever enjoy the post of honor it now holds. And when our children and our children's children shall visit these venerated halls, let them pause before the portrait of this venerable man, and do homage to his memory; who, with his patriotic devotion to his country and his devout service to his God, crowned the full completeness of his high character with an unmeasured love for his fellow man.

