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Special Meeting of the Board, July 1, 1844

Board met this afternoon at 4 o'clock, Dr. Peck called to the chair. The Rev. Jason Lee from Oregon opened with prayer. The minutes of the last meeting were read approved and signed. The following members were present. Ministers, Dr. Peck, Dr. Pittman, Coles, Dempster, Jason Lee, Bigelow, Lane, Roberts, of New Jersey, Leonard of Canada, Soney, Lyon Cheney, Smith. Laymen, Hall, Edwards, Dr. Phelphs, Coon, Brown, Dr. Stephenson, Dr. Throgmorton, Terry, Macfarlon, worrel, Dano, Skidmore, Halster, Schureman, Moore, Rayner, Godine, Cobb. The chairman stated that this was a special meeting, called at the request of the Corresponding Secretary. Dr. Pitman observed that the meeting had been called to offer Mr. Lee an opportunity of making a statement to the Board in referenc to the Oregon Mission. He also stated that Bro. Lee had been permited to examine the papers, which had been compiled for the government of the Rev. Mr. Gary in his visit to Oregon.---

At half past 4 o clock Bro. Lee arose and remarked, in substance, as follows. He expressed his gratitude to God for his protection in guiding him once more to to a civilised world, and for permiting him to meet again with this Board. From what he had heard since his arrival in this city he was satisfied that it was necessary for him to give the Board all the information in his favor, he would therefore state briefly the reasons which induced his return from Oregon. First, The Mission had obtained by possession a large tract of land in Oregon, and as a large emigration was pouring into that country, he believed it a duty to this Board to immediately petition the Government of the United States to secure to the Missionary Soc. the right of possession. My impressions were, that if I

went to Washington I could present the claims of the Soc. in a manner that would make a favorable impression. In my recent visit to the federal city I saw and conversed with the President, heads of departments, Senators, and members of the House of Representatives. I gave them my view of things, and, I think made a most favorable impression upon all.

And though nothing could be effected at present, I have no that our claim will be favourably remembered.

Col. Benton, and others, saw that our claim was reasonable and just. At a suitable time Congress must be memorialized, and a case made out submited to that Body.

Second, I had head that it was in contemplation to send a special Agent to Oregon; and my impression was that he would probably crop the Mountains.

I was under the impression, that availing myself of the opportunity which offered, I might reach home previous to the Agent's departure, and by giving to the Board a detail of events, and prospects of the Mission, might save the expense of sending the contemplated Agent.

Thirdly, I had become fully satisfied that the Board had had such representations made to them, that it was my duty to appear before them, and so far as in my power to correct those eroneous statments which have been in reference to proceedings in the Mission. The affairs in the Oregon have greatly changed since I had the happiness of meeting with the Board, first a great change had taken place in the white population -- Second, the Indians have diminished upon the Willamette River in a great degree.

When the Board sent out its last large reinforcement, its object in my view and I believe in theirs was, that Methodism should spread throughout Oregon; for what purpose els, I ask, did so large a number of laymen go out? It it was only to form one or two stations, it appears to me that both the Board, and myself, as

their agent must have taken leave of our senses. If my asociates had stood firm to their post, and persevered willingly in the work consined them, I have not a doubt but for more favorable accounts would have reaches you from that distant country. The plans, I assert well formed and had I been sustained the object would have been accomplished. A great mistake was made in selecting some of those who were sent out. I allude not to the number, bu the qualifications of certain individuals. I forewarned the Oregon Committee that if the persons who applied for situations, were mot examined by a proper committee the plan would fail, Such proved to be the case, As proof I aver that we had not reached our first stopping place in South America, before some desired to return to the United States, and even after touching at the S. Islands before we had reached Oregon one wanted to return and secure the Chaplancy at the Islands. I have had much to contend with, and I regret that men of more steadfast minds had not been chosen, Such persons do more injury to a distant Mission than they do good, and no one knows the difficulties I have had to pass through.

I will state the case of one, although I am compelled to speak of one now no more I allude to Bro. Olley -- he never was capable of doing more than the work of half a man, and I am sorry to say to say that he met death in a mad freak, in going after logs to build a house for himself without my knowledge.

The Oregon Committee must remember, that I told them that the first question to be asked the applicant, should be, "Does your wife want to go"? and a negative answer should satisfy the Committee that such a person ought not to be sent. What was the fact in the case, why a number of females were unwillingly dragged thousands of miles from home into a strange and savage country -- and some them, I know would gladly have returned in the very stamer that took us to the Ship. It is a hard lot to go so far from home free from care and anxiety, but to endure

such a voyage, with a companion all the time looking back to home, and reproaching one for having drawn her from that home, is more than almost anyone can endure. So ar was this the case, that I believe some would have gladly hidden in the very steamer that took us to the Ship sooner than have gone to the Oregon. As affairs have now turned out, the laymen are not all needed in Oregon, and some may return, or suffer themselves to be discharged in that country.

As it regards Dr. White, I feel to day as I did the day and the hour when the Dr. first left Oregon, that I have done my duty. Bro. Kone complains of my treatment of him, amd professes to know my secret reasons for wishing to keep all in the field. I never had any secret reasons. As it regards the yearly Meeting I acted in perfect and entire conformity to my instructions from this Board. Bro. Kone by his injudicious remarks caused great excitement among the laymen, and made much difficulty. As it regards my not sending reports regularly, I ought perhaps at once plead guilty, -- but if I do there are many mitigating circumstances. The great press of buisnes, calls to a distance, sickness of myself, death in my family, the multiplied calls on the attention of the Steward Abernethy all must be taken into consideration,-- add to which the opportunities that offer for a conveyance to the U. States. I could not myself go behind the counter and relieve Bro. Abernethy , I called assistance to him, but it was found, rather a burden than an assistance,-- and finally as soon as a correct statement could be prepared it was transmitted and is now in your possession, and I take upon me to say, that Bro. Abernethy will regularly report hereafter. He is an excelent accountant, few better. I am not surprised that you have complained. I murmur not.-- It is owing to the great distance we have been from each other, and the peculiar state of affairs. I assure you Brethren that I have always acted for the best interests of this Society.

In one of Bro. Abernethy's letters, he tells you that the Superintendant refused to send the report of the state of the property home. There is some error in this. I cannot, I will not, believe that A. intended to charge me with opposing the sending of that report.

There must be some mistake which time will unfold. I am satisfied he does all a man can, and I have not a doubt that he will take proper care of the property committed to his care. I am charged by one that has returned, with speculating in cattle. I will give you a history of this matter $250, worth fell into my hands, they fell upon the Prairies, and eat the grass which otherwise would be burnt in the fall. I have also during my residence purchased some eitht or ten horses. I knew the Mission must have cattle from time to time, and I will state that my cattle were with the Mission's for a time, but I spent no more time with the cattle than I should have been obliged to spend if mine had belonged to another man, and yet, I paid my share of expenses, <u>including my time</u>.

If I had chosen to speculate I might have sold to others, at a profit, some cattle I let the Mission have at cost, but I did not do so. As to time spent off my Mission work, I assure the Board, that the two weeks spent in attendance on the debates at the General conference is far more than <u>all</u> the time spent for myself since my return to Oregon.

The Mission owns about six hundred head of Cattle. My cattle have increased but the precise number I do not know. A little before my departure I spent two days in looking after my cattle. Another charge against me is, that Walamette is not the most suitable place for a location. Perhaps the best answer to that is that Committee was appointed to examine certain points, and that Committee reported in favor of continuing at the Walamette. As to the sickness at that place, as

reported by Bro. Kone, I am persuaded that had the Mission been at any other place, the sickness would have been the same it was so generally throughtout the country.

The letter of Bro. Hines.

Before I left Oregon I was aware that Bro. Hines had written to the Board. He had read part of his communication to some persons, who had hinted to me about it. He started from Oregon with me, and I was in hopes we should have met face to face before this Board. He returned, however, from the Sandwich Islands to Oregon. He states that the Mission cannot compete with other stores Traders. I have paid his Bills at other stores, and I know that the articles he purchased elsewhere were fully as high as at the Mission store. And yet we think our store will give some profit.

So far as regards the matters alledged in reference to the Hudsons Bay Co. he would say, that perhaps the dearest goods they had to purchase was the Hudsons Bay Co's Their mode of conducting their business was this, They would give $2, 20 for a Beaver; this they would probably sell in England from $5 to $15. Theirs was a nominal currency, they put on in the first place/to Missionaries) 70 per cent. They will take no money except on London They do business there at the rate of $4.00 to the pound, but when you come to pay on London, they call these pounds sterling. They then have a commission on their bills, and make us pay the current rate of exchange. Now Bro. Hines himself instead of going to the H. B. Co who he says sell 50 per cent cheaper than we do, went to other stores and brought at a much dearer rate than we sell.

The committe need not think, however, that they were speculating, or abusing the people, by the profit they were making on the goods, Let it be remembered, that they (the Missionaries of the M. E. C.) carried at first ploughs, &c. These

the people needed, and it was by means of these that the condition of the people had been so much inproved.

This has given them facilities they did not before possess; and they probably raised 5000 bushels of wheat last year more than they would have raised, if the Mission had not afforded these advantages to them. They raised enough for their families, and the Emigrants, and the H. B. Co. took, I think, not less than 10, 000 bushels to Russia. Now the Mission expected to get something eventually, for they trusted them when they were poor. So far as Bro. Hines remarks about bad debts went, he would inform the Board, that Mr Abernethy assured him that the Mission would ultimally lose severely a single dollar. The debts were being gradually paid. No man leaves the country in debt. There had been but one instance, and he returned and paid everything. Again it was said that the Mission was not doing a profitable business, and that it would be better to take out money and buy goods there. Mention was also made of the cost of transporting goods &c. To all this he would say, the worst thing they could do would be to take out money. That the cost of freight from the S. Islands, to the Columbia was $25. as asserted by (Bro Hines) it all guess work with him. He (M. Lee) had looked over the bills more than ever Mr. Hines had. A small cargo reshiped at the Sandwich I. did in one instance cost $20. "But the cost of transport up the Wallamette, was enormous, actual cost from $20, to $30 a load being taken up the river in a canoe." There may have been one or two such instances, when they had heavy rains and fressets. Then the expense was enormous, but the average expense was nothing like that, large boat loads were got up at much less. Bro. Hines has taken an extreme case.

"Unhappy influences created. The Mission accused of going into speculation".

"Difficulty in convincing the Oregon people that profit was not principally sought."

I am of a contrary opinion. But where are christians not slandered? Or where does an entire community speak what they think of the men of God? The regret at my leaving, and the earnest requests I received to come back, convince me that such is not the feeling. We have put them in advance of what they would otherwise have been. Without our Mission they could not have staid in the country and they knew it. They told me when I reached Oregon last, that they should have left the country until. I have taken out things and saved them from succumbing to the H. B. C.

We have been the means of the conversion of Rocky Mountain who have been from 10. to 15. years, in the Mountains and spent every cent in drink; and we have persuaded the people to marry.

They now make a handsome living, are christians and industrious. It is impossible that such an opinion should prevail, Viz. that our object is principally money. Never, never since the world commenced has a Settlement of such men, been so benefited by christian influence as the Oregon Settlement. Blood thirsty men have been prevented from annihilating the Indians.

I have a paper handed me just as I left, not numerously signed, but signed by all who saw it, except one stranger which speak of me in terms I should be almost ashamed to read before this Board, and which would abundantly confirm all that I have said.

Dr. M.Loughlin told, me that a few years before we went to that country, they

could not send a boat past Dalls, without a guard of 60 armed men, Now we go up singly and no one is robed. This is owing to our Missionary labors. Dr. was kind to the settlers so far as he liked them, but wants to do all the business. He is a Catholic. Previous to the Preists going there, I was his intimate friend.-- his confident. Such was my influence with the Canadian part of the Settlement that they would have been pleased to give me their church and have no Priest come. Since my return I have not time to instruct their children as we used to do, and the Priest have taken them. "Farming operation, 10,000 bushesl of wheat sent to Russia, which showed that there would be no lack of the staff of life" &c. &c.

Some have thought differently, and have difficulty in geting what they wanted. The people borrowed seed from the H. B. Co. and the Com. made them pay up first. And they take it in wheat, and must have it at any rate. (Mr. Lane) Is it true that it costs us more to raise the wheat, than we could purchase it for? (Mr. Lee) We had to break up new lands, and fence in farms. Mr. Hines in his document leaves out the cattle, which every farmer, must take into the account of profit and lost on his farm. Then the improvements on the farm remains after the original outlay. (Some remarks being about the brethren living better there than they did at home, Mr. Lee said with all their cows, they were not able to supply their families with butter the year round, "Accused of speculating," There might a shadow of truth in that, when they first went out they brought horses to ride and cows to milk. Some sold off their young cattle others let them increase.

Bro. Parrish made a little money in this way, perhaps $100. <u>one</u> year.

He and others kept hogs as your Preachers do in this country, and thus got his fork a little cheaper. He and others would go out to look for a cow that had calved, for a quarter of a day. I did not think it right to spend so much time as some did in their own business, and told them so. Bro. Frost once went off to buy some, cattle, the only effort of the kind he ever made. And I think the greatest effort he ever made in Oregon. Since Bro. Hines wrote that paper he has, perhaps, had move to do with speculating in cattle tham anyman in Oregon Mission. What I call specualting is not buying cattle with the intention of leting them grow and increase, but with the purpose of selling them for more than they cost. In this way, I was told, he made $100. in a few days, then went out the impression that your Missionaries were specualting.

I made one speculation myself; I went to Dr. Richmond's ,-- he had some things he could not sell. I took about $150.00 . $200 worth, They were a year and a half before they reached me. He teased me to buy his rifle, offered it to me for $30. I knew I could sell it for more. I at length consented to take it and on reaching hom had $50. offered for it, and I let the person have it at once. That was the only thing of the kind I ever did it, but, not because I thought there was any thing wrong in it, I always believed I had a perfect right to do so. But I was sorry on account of the use made of it. "Supplies can be purchased from the French farmers a round at a more advantageous vote." "Seting, aside the growth of stock the farm has not supported itself by man hundred dollars." The year I returned we did not gather in all the harvest, but is my administration to be found fault with on that account? I was away on an exploring expidition. The next year I took the cradle for 18 days. I was told that Booth's, Hines, Abernethy, and others sat down in a room to estimate the expenses of the farm in the meantime and there made up their conclusions; but when the farmer and

myself looked into it, we thought it had more than cleared itself. This last year the farmer will make considerable money. A Barn has been built, the farm well fenced in, and we have become accustomed to work it. Bro. Beers is selling out to the people. He manages the farm, and is as good a man to work as you will find anywhere. When he first began he was not a farmer, but has now got used to it. He is one of the Executive Committee, at the head of the Oregon Government. This does not interfere with his labor much.-- "And the more extensive the operations, the greater the loss!" The Blacksmith has little to do, and the shop does not pay &c." That there is little to do I think is a great mistake for Bro. Beers is pressed beyond measure with work, and if Bro. Parrish, had not been affected with the Ague, so that he could have worked at the business the shop would have made money.

The same fatality attends the Milling business, the Mill has sunk $10 a day for some months past. I had better be given away." Now in the spring, I believe it was before the mill closed, the winter before he writes this, Bro. Hines riding with me siad he had been making an estimate and found, the mill was clearing, I think he said $15. a day. In this document he says nothing about that, The next year it go out of repair, and while being repaired, it may have sunk $10. a day. This might last about a month. I examined the accounts at the end of the year and it did not make much that year. The water did not come as early as usual by a month or more. We have now let it out for two years, we have half the lumber, and risk the Dam and the iron work. Lumber sells at from $12. to $15. a thousand. Bro. Hines must have known that this would make a false impression, and it is not fair, The Board then adjourned until Tuesday Evening at 8 o'clock and were dismissed with the benediction.

Tuesday Evening.

Dr. Bangs in the chair. Prayer by Mr. Wakely. Members present. Ministers, Dr. Bangs, J. Lee, Withey, Wakely, N. I. B. How, Lane, Pitman, J. M. Howe, Laymen, Hall, Skidmore, Covv, Worral Dando Macfarlane, Coon, M. Lane, Thockmorton, Rayne, Mead, More, Dr. Stephenson.

Mr. Lee continued. There is one thing I did not mention yesterday, the excuse Bro. Kone made for not writing while he lay in Bakers Bay was that the foremast, and mainmast were destroyed by lightining, and they were six miles from shore. I saw the Capt. afterwards. He showed me the mainmast and all that was to be seen as a mere scar, a narrow slip of about two feet in length. He said nothing about the other masts being injured. The distance across the river is about six miles. Bakers Bay his inside a sand Island, and cannot be over two miles wide. Vessels do not lie over 1 or 1½ miles from shore. With respect to the circumstances attending the death of Bro. Olley. (Mr. Pitman observed, that the account had been furnished by Bro. Frost since he came to this country.) I was told that Bro. Hines had written an account of his death, and his account must be correct. Some remark of Mr. Hall, respecting a statement of Mr. Lee's on the previous evening, on which Dr. Bangs observed, that he never selected any of them, (the Missionaries,) -- not one of them, and did not know how they were selected. Mr. Lee. You and I were the committee to accept them and after that, Dr. Luckey was added. I gave my sonsent to only two of the men.

Mr. Pitman remarked on the word "mad," as applied to Mr. Olley, and Mr. Lee explained, that he meant it was a wild freak, an inconsistent, and unheard of thing.

Mr. Lee then read a paragraph from Mr. Hines' document, respecting the great number of drafts, that were "flocking over the Rocky Mountains, and which it was contended, proved, that the true intrests of the Mission a change in the, modus operandi," &c. On which, Mr. Lee remarked, I do not know any considerable expenditure that was not first approved of by the members of the Mission, Bro. Hines among the rest. And the Mission would, I believe bear, me out in saying that it was the general impression, that Bro. Hines was more force to have the money spent than any other man on the Mission.

A house was wanted for himself and Bro. Campbell. The plan was drawn out, I thought it was too small for two families, and it was agreed to build a larger one, the sise was defined, and Mr. H. profess himself much pleased. I went from home. On my return I found he had altered the plan on his own responsibility. He said it would cost but little more, I thought it would cost $100. more. I expressed my surprise. He was displeased and told me I ought rather to have congratulated him upon the noble looking house he had raised. Bro. H. was said to be the highest man in his estimates for domestic expenditures. I say this only that you may know something, about the man who has prefered these charges. "A numerous gang of Sandwich Islanders are employed whose labor does not pay their board. They are paid $10. per month sick or well." This is calculated to make a very false impression. You would think, that a gang would consist of at least, 5 or 6. I think has the farmer has never had more than three, belonging to the farm except in time of harvest. They receive nominally $10. a month. This is the H. B. Com. price, paying them in goods at Sandwich Island retail prices, and enormously high. Dr. M. Loughlin told me they prefered taking $74. a year. Beaver prices. Bro. Hines knew this as well as I knew it, both as to the manner in which they were paid, and the prices. They were satisfied. We were guided by the H. B. Co.

"Whose labor does not pay their board." The H. B. Co. have repeatedly told me that this is the cheapest labor that can be procured. We have found it so, so also thinks the farmer. Bro. Beers understands business well and would not keep men year after year who did not earn their board, and give them $10. per month. I was offered $1. a day for one as long as he could work. The falsity of the statement is apparent to anyone. I cannot take any other view of it than that it was written to make a false impression "There is not an Indian but what is affected with the venereal disease, or scrofula," &c. I accompanied Bro. Hines to the Umpqua. We saw several hundred Indians in our route. I saw no signs of venereal diseases, and there was no such remark made about the Indians in the upper part of the Walamette. These prevail to a great extent, especially the scrofula amongst the Indians on the Columbia river, and lower part of Walamette, but even there it is very for from the truth that scarcely an exception can be found, or my eyes deceive me very much. "These, with the petty wars are fast destroying this wretched race of men." There has been very few petty wars since we went into that country. If the Mission has done nothing els, it has put a stop to these in a great measure from the mouth of the Columbia River to the Dalls, and in the lower part of the Wallamette Valley. There have been a few murders, but very few, to what there used to be. "These 1500 Indians are divided into seven different clans each speaking a distinct language, not understood by others except through an interpreter." Bro. Hines has probably less personal knowledge on this subject than any other man except Bro. Beers, who with Dr. Babcock, is the only one that has not attempted to preach to the Indians in Jargon. Bro. Hines, I think has never attempted it. Mr. Rogers one of the <u>best linquests</u> that the Kalapooyas all speak the same language. This Jargon was used at the Dalls, many of the Indians understood it, many were convicted and converted. The Indians have never

been injured by white men since I went there. They would have been had we not been there to guard their interest. But I wish the world to know that the Missionaries have exerted their influence to prevent the white men, killing the Indians, and therefore they have not killed a white man since. The H. B. Co. were sending out a large party to avenge the death of one of their Trapers. The leader came to my house. I made inquiries and found that there were no substantial grounds to believe, that the tribe they were going to murder were the guilty parties, and in consequence of my remarks they gave up their design. True the H. B. Co. made a noise about Missionaries interfering with their business &c. but a few weeks after it was found out to be another tribe than that, on which they were going to wreak their vengeance. Dr. M Loughlin afterwards acknowledged he was satisfied. I saved them from murdering, and us from being murdered.

"And indeed they the (Indians) have no life or energy and are a melancholly doomed race of men." I think this is in part true, the Indians on the Walamette, will become, as a distinct race, extinct. But I think there will be more Indian blood, through amalgamation, running in the veins of white men a hundred years hence, than would have been running in the veins of the Indians, if they had been left to themselves. The Missionaries have performed many such marriages among them. "So far as the prospect of doing good is concerned, there is nothing to warrant the Board in supporting the Mission at its present expense." That probably was perfectly true when Bro. Hines wrote, though even then the expense was not so great as his language would lead one to believe. But alterations have been made. Several of the laymen I have persuaded to go for themselves. They were willing to do so. Had I dismissed them without their consent, they might have required me to send them home. This arrangment will save money, and the Mission will do very well. I have dismissed three laymen. At the Dalls, Bro. Brewer the former could not be spared. He is doing well for the Mission. Bro. Perkins

is not enough for that Mission. At Clatsop Bro. Parrish is laboring for the good of the Indians. He was doing well, and working hard. He is a local Preacher. Seven of the Indians were becoming praying men.

Of Bro. Frost, I cannot say much. He has made no thorough effort to bring sinners to God. I mean such an effort as would render if probable that these Indians could not be benefited by the Gospel. Whether he could have done more is with himself. At the Walamette Falls Brd. Abernethy cannot be spared, until he has wound up the business, which will take him a year or two. At the old farm is Bro. Beers, that could not be given up. It would be bad policy to give it up. It could be sold but we have the prospect og geting the land, which will be yet more valuable than it is now. It is only by returning the farmer, that we can secure the lands which are any day worth $40.000. I have no doubt about geting the land. Dr. Babcock went to the S. Islands, for the benefit of his wife's health, but has now returned. He was never fond of the station. There was some little disaffection, but he has taken pretty good care of the Mission family. They could not, at Walamette, well get along without a Physician. At the Mill we have none of our own people. Bro. Judson has gone to work for himself. At the school we have only Bro. Campbell, his wife, and sister Philips, who will probably not remain long at the school. This is nothing like an adequate number. To carry on the school at the Shawnee Mission, I informed, they have 100 schollars, we have about 40. Bro. Gray <u>may</u> be able to dismiss more of the laymen. "This state of things produces a very disheartening effect, upon the minds of the friends of the Mission.-- the object is not secure"-- To this I reply that the laymen have nearly all told me that they went to Oregon with the expectation of becoming Missionaries, and Preachers, They find they cannot do this an they feel dissatisfied There are 16 adults employed at and above the Falls, A majority think there

ought only to be six.

Now let us look at this majority. There is Bro. Hines, and his wife, who never wished to go into the country, And Miss Philips who I think is about to be married. Dr. Babcock and his wife who never wished to go for ten years and would be glad to return. Bro Abernethy, and his wife who did not wish to go. Bro. Waller's wife, who never wished to go into the country, And Bro. Parrish and his wife, who wanted to get upon a circuit. These will about make the number. I was told that Bro. Hines' mind was made up to come home before he wrote, and that is the key to this communication from Bro. Hines. Mr Lee then proceeded to notice the impression made upon the Board by the communication, which he felt was very unfavorable, and to illustrate the character of the writer adverted to a fact in connection with the Oregon Institute. The Trustees had unanimously, with the exception of Mr. Hines, agreed upon a certain resolution. And Mr. Hines agreed upon a certain resolution. And Mr . Hines after the meeting charged them all with being satisfied that they were acting inconsistently. And, of course they had voted as they did from improper motives. In this he persisted to such an extent that it was generally understood, that he did not intend to pay his subscription. And the sensation was so great that the Collector declared that he should not come away without paying it for he would have him arrested. He paid it just before he left. Some of it had been due a long time. He did leave, but has returned to the Continent I have no doubt, (continued, Mr. Lee) that this document, was written to prepare the way for his leaving and in his zeal he has gone beyond the mark. I do not mean to say that he has intentionally stated anything wrong, and yet, knowing the man, and the document. I confess I am dreadfully puzzled to account for some of the statements. I ought to say, however, that I am under ten thousand obligations to Bro. Hines, he has been as kind to

me as a man could be. His wife has been a mother to my daughter, and his house has been my home! Mr. Lee observed, that felt inclined to say something respecting himself. He said when he first went to Oregon, he went to work with his hands; he was brought up to hard work. He knew the impression prevailed here that he was not competent to manage such a concern, but he had managed gangs of men before he was converted. The first year he was in Oregon he worked incessantly, and seldom did the sun in the morning find him from his work, In the winter he had work that he could do in the house in the evening, such as making sashes, and in a house measuring 32 feet by 18 he hewed every plank for the floor, above and below, all all the doors and tables &c. He had seen the day when he could chop a cord of sugar maple wood in two hours and he did move in his first year in Oregon, in the way of building that house, fencing and cultivating land, than he had ever seen done there by any one man in the same time. He then alluded to some difficulty he had had in the erection of the Mill, over which, however, by his management he triumphed. He could manage any one branch of business very well, and never had fault found with him, at home, those under him were always willing to stay longer. He could do one thing but could not be in ten places at once.

He did not engage in the Missionary work for the sake of speculating. The Chair would bear him witness that before he went out the first time, when it was proposed to give him a larger salary, he said God forbid, that the time should ever come, when Preachers in the M. E. C. could take into account the prospect of <u>pecuniary</u> advantage, above what Preachers have at home, as an inducement to go into the Missionary field. And the Estimating Committee would bear him record that when they were making out the estimates, at time of his last visit, they told him, they had been accustomed give Superentendants, and he replied, that on <u>no consideration</u> could he be induced to receive more than Preachers did at home, or his asoociates who labored in the same field.

The Chair (Dr. Bangs) and the committee ascented to the above statements. These things being known, (said Mr. Lee) my character ought to have been above suspicion. I know that men may change, but still it ought not to have been credited, without the most indisputable proofs, that Jason Lee was speculating, and that too, with Mission funds for his own benefit. He had served the Missionary Society eleven years. He had had a wife, a short part of that time, and she had well earned her living. In addition to all her domestic labors for the Mission, which were very heavy, she made clothes for the Indian children in the school. When she did work for others, the proceeds were always put into the Mission funds. This was the case with both of his wives.

He had himself lived most of the time without, any Talbe Expenses, and had received during the eleven years but $13,00 with the exception of his living. Yet he and his brethren had contributed as liberally as any men towards any benevolent project. As Superintendant he was expected to give more than others, and to enable him to meet these demands, he had sold the clothes of his deceased wives, and his furniture &c. He would not have mentioned these things, but he thought it due to himself, after the feeling he had witnessed in every quarter. As to his traveling expenses he did not think that throughtout his whole tour through the United States, they would find $3. charged for dinners; for he had been so conscientious that he often dined upon a few crackers in order to save expense to the cause.--

It was his opposition to the expenditure of Dr. White that incensed that gentleman against him.

Then he Mr. Lee again went out his principles with regard to economy were unchanged; but he was then placed in circumstances he could not control.

Any man who would not have given money for houses &c. would have been driven out of the field. He never spent any considerable amount of money that had not been approved by those connected with the Mission. Some of them wanted him to spned money faster than he could get it. ------ He had traveled thousands of miles by canoe, and his expenses were not one third, of any of the gentlemen, connected with the H. B. Co. The reason of this was that he traveled in a smaller canoe. So small that they would not risk their lives in it,-- and because he never would hire white men at $1. per day, prefering when he could not procure a full crew of Indians to paddle himself.

The Secretary states that, "the Superintendant of the Oregon Mission has spent $100.000, and no account of disbursements had been rendered". Mr. Lee. This I confess surprises me. When I left this country, I left the account of all the goods we had brought. When I came home I told the Missionary Society that we had done, so and so, and had so much property left. This was the disbursement, and was so understood at the time and no complaint was made about it. I went back and no father explanation was asked, and no complaint made either to the Board, or to myself.

We might perhaps have sent the report home one year sooner, though that would have been very difficult. We took to Oregon, I think between $13,000 and $14,000, worth of good. The Board knew what salaries the Missionaries were to receive, for they themselves fixed them, and the statement of Table expenses, was sent regularly every year. How much then remained not accounted for? Out of the proceeds of the goods taken out, and drafts since we have had annually to pay, a large number of men their Salaries and Table expenses. The Chairman explained the kind of account that was wanted. (Mr. Lee.) There was not a Clerk in Oregon who could have been had, at the time, to assist Bro. Abernethy in making out such an ac-

count. Nor was it understood by Bro. Abernethy that such was required. He had since sent an inventory of all there was, which should have been sent the first year. Dr. Bangs, further explained that the Board wanted an account of what was raised, and how disposed of. Mr. Lee that I suppose will come in regularly now that the inventory has been made out. The Board know the amount of the salaries. I do not understood bookkeeping myself. (Dr. Ptiman But Bro. Abernethy is an efficient book keeper.) Mr Lee. Yest but he could not get help. He was unable to get his accounts written into his books for a long time. It was explained that, what the Board wanted to know was what was raised on the farm &c. What it cost, what each Missionary received from the farm, and what from other sources &c. Mr. Lee. Well but the proceeds of the farm all go to pay Table expenses, and the estimated prices are sent home every year by the Estimating Committee. Mr. Lee then entered upon the question of the large expenditure of the Oregon Mission. From a rough but he thought not an overrated sketch, he would show, that, the expenditure in Oregon was not so enormous after all.

This apparent enormity of expenditure was in a great measure owing to the immense distance, The transportation there, the extra expense of outfit, the freight of good, the return of Missionaries, &c &c. The distance between this country and Oregon was the great vortex that had swallowed up $40.000. of this money. This must be deducted in in making a compareson with other Missions. Now suppose they had $60,000. expended there; a year ago they supposed their property, not including lands, worth about $50.000. The school house could not be sold for what it cost. The property at all the stations, will probably have increased in value during the year. By the goods sent out the last time Bro. Abernethy expects to clear $10.000. The Dall's property, perhaps could not be sold, the Indians will have no one there but Missionaries. This would leave about $10,000. expended in Oregon above what remained. He did not think this

subject, had been properly investigated, and that for want of looking into it, worong impressions had been made.

This statement showed that their business in Oregon, had not been such a sinking operation as had been represented, but had yielded something towards their support. Mr Lane said the amount expended, had been about $120,000. to which Mr. Lee replied, that he did not seek to make a false impression, and he would say then that it would leave $30,000, but they expected to get the land in Oregon, which would be worth $40.000.; for from the President downwards all acknowledged that they were entitled to it, and he thought that their expenditures in Oregon, was the sole cause of their favorable view of this subject. The considered Dr. Richmond his enemy because he had so declared himself, and sent more to him (Mr. Lee) that he was his antagonist. And he hoped as they had heard his enemy, they would hear him. He must be heard by somebody. The Board then adjourned , to Wednesday.

Wednesday Evening July 10.

Present Rev. Dr. Bangs, Jason Lee, Osbon, J M Howe, Lane, Sutten, Pitman, Wakely G. Smith Withey, Seney, Laymen-- Messrs. Hall, Dando raynor, Maclane, Coon, M. Lean, Lovelane, Cobb, Brown, Skidmore, Oakley Dr. Stephenson, Dr. Phelps. Dr. Bangs in the Chair. Prayer by Mr. Osbon. Mr. Lee resumed. He was happy to hear from the Board last evening that they expected him from the charge of speculating, but he feared this exception was only in the minds of the Board, and not with the public at large. He judged this from what he had heard from every quarter. The expenses of the Oregon Mission, might from what he had heard, been thought unprecedented; but this was not the case.

A Mission from Mexico to Lower California, cost the Government in three years $225,000. and failed. In reference to the Oregon Mission, the reaction had already

taken place. The day of unwarrantable expectations, in reference to that Mission, had, he thought gone by. It should sustained, and might be. With the exception of the great distance, it was as cheap as any that promised as well.

In the Walamette Valley the people were not just now able to pay for themselves, nor could it be expected of them, until they had a Preacher appointed with the understanding that they were to do something for his support. Three Preachers could not more than do the work. Even then they would still reguire to be dependant upon the Society to some extent. The friends of Missions have no fears about it in future, but might come up to its support, with the assurance, that it would hereforth be as beneficial, as others which cost the same money. What he was going to say might militate against himself more than anything that yet transfered.-------

It had been said, that was a non-commital man, yet arbitrary, and precipitate. He shuned no responsibility where he saw plainly his duty required it. He alluded to his superintendancy of the Oregon Mission or his official character, and the manner in which it had been treated. It appeared to him that in his official character, he had been tried, condemned, and executed, on an exparty statement, and without having been heard himself. He had been told by a gentleman of high standing in society, that an unfavorable impression had gone out, far and wide, and the gentleman advised him not to collect a single dollar for the Society until something had been done in that Board in reference to his case. Mr. Lee, then refered to the Missionary Report, and complained of the course adopted, by the Board in sending out Bro. Gary, and the remarks in the Report explanatory of that appointment, and his Mr. Lee's deposition. He contended that, that Report had not assigned the main reason for that change.

Dr. White, though known to have been expelled from the church; had made by his statements an unfavorable impression, upon the minds of the Board, which had never been removed. Mr. Lee, then made some strictures upon the respecting an agent and a superintendant, and sought to show an inconsistancy between the recorded resolutions and the reasons given in the report. Dr. Pitman defended the proceedings of the Board. Mr. Lee, thought that the truth of the matter was, that an impression unfavorable to himself and his administration had been made, and that some were withholding their subscriptions on that account. So the Committee thought it necessary to do something to appease the people, and made him the sacrifice. He believed it to be the action of the Board, and not of the Bishop, who never moved in such matters without taking council of the Board. He claimed a right to have been informed of any contemplated movement that was calculated to affect him in the estimation of his friends. They might think he was holding with a death grasp to the superintendancy. It was not so. They had made him a superintendant without his solicitation, or knowledge. Since his conversion, he had never taken one step towards an appointment. He went no where except God first opened the door. In this case God opened the door and the church pushed him in. I did believe (said Mr. Lee.) when somany offered themselves, and then backed out, that I should do very well for a pioneer across the Rocky Mountains. Before I had got across the Mountains on my return, my mind was made up, that men might be found, who would manage that Mission in its future prospects better than myself. And I asked, on my return, if there could not be some way divised, for some one to supersede me in that charge.

I pleaded my ignorance of the usages of the church, and that I had been so little accustomed to govern in the church &c. But all would do. You would not hear a word of it, and heavy as the crop was I took it up. I have never yet seen the time, when I dould not have been glad to relinquish the Superintendancy. But

I do not think my present removal has been done just in the way it ought to have been done. Neverthless I not intend to make a great fuss about it. I believe the Board mistook the point, when they took the course they did. They have made a favorite of the man, they placed over my head. He may to to Oregon stay just as long as he likes, and then return. He is not required to stay ten years. The Board thought, the public would be satisfied, and that I should go down. I think they are mistaken with respect to the public being satisfied, and will fine that they have only increased the impression that the business has been badly managed. Mr. Lee, then entered into his personal history prior to his being employed by the Board, and said, if he alone had been affected, he could have bourn it,-- and assured the Board that he felt more for the cause than for himself.

He then continued his remarks upon the Mission. The Walamette Valley would require more Missionaries than almost any other country, in proportion to numbers; and at the present time there must be a large amount of missionary labor expended there if they would retain possession of what had got. The number of inhabitants had doubled last year. Of these 'twas true several were pious, but a large proportion of them werenot so. It was a difficult thing to carry religion over the Rocky Mountains. The school at Oregon required another efficient man, if the Board carried it on. It would be folly to attempt to carry it on with the present amount of employed upon it.

Mr. Lee, again entered upon his persoanl history and future prospects; and put in sundry documents, one at which was a letter from Bro. Raymond requesting to be taken back into the Mission. This Mr. Lee had refused to do, but had promised to lay the subject before the Board. With Bro. R. he had, had much trouble and he knew not where to put him, or what to do with him. If he was going to

work a farm for himself he would scarcely take him if he would work for nothing. He should fear he would break as much as he would earn-- would work one day beyong human strength, and then be unfit for work for a week. Was a generous man when he enjoyed religion, but discontented otherwise.

In relation to Dr. White's charges made against him in the New England Conference, Mr. Lee mentioned, that one of the signatures, Mr. Joseph M. Loughlin's, attached to one of his testimonials was not written by Mr. M. L. nor with his knowledge, but Dr. White had persuaded another, to forge his name. Mr. Lee then documents proving that the report he made of the doings of Dr. White, at the meeting at the Catholic Church, was correct.

Bro. Hines had intended to come home with him, not because he wished, for his own part to leave the country, but because his wife could not be contented. He should not wonder if he came yet; He (Mr. H) wished know if they would pay his expenses, to and from the Sandwich Islands. Mr Lee thought they ought in view of the precedents established. Said that he was willing to go back and labor as long as the Board required his services, but if they have no work for him he would rahter come home. He stands high in the community there. It became necessary that we should have some one there as Judge with probate powers. We were obliged to do something to prevent bloodshed about teh property of deceased persons. Dr. B. was appointed, and had gained the confidence of all parties.

The cry of speculation he (Mr. Lee) doubted not, had also reference to the building a Mill there. The history of the matter is this; The Setters became convinced that the H. B. Co. wished to monopolize the commence. This injured the settlers and the Mission. They believed they could build a Mill at the Falls that would bring in other Vessels besides the H. B. Co's. They spoke to him

about it, and he told them that he could go into no such speculation. They did build one and Dr. M Loughlin put up another in opposition. Our people would go and spend two or three days in a quarter, in the business charging themselves with the time. They thus get together and discuss matters, and see each others faces. But he (Mr. Lee) always parried off and spoke against it, not that he was much opposed to that one thing, but he thought it safest to hold them back and let them feel that he held them responsible for every days employment. Mr. Pitman on behalf of the Board explained, that the Episcopacy had suggested that they should send a Superintendent to Oregon, instead of an Agent. And Dr. Pitman further said, that Bro. Lee was still a missionary in Oregon, and the Board do or say nothing as to the future. It was with the Episcopacy.