

THE OREGON ARGUS.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. OREGON CITY, SAT. APRIL 21, 1855.

Agents for the Argus.

- S. J. McCORMICK, Portland. J. R. McHanna, Lafayette. C. A. BARR, Salem. W. C. BARLOS, Molalla. Dr. G. W. GERR, Forest Grove. Dr. DAVIS, Monmouth. J. E. MURPHY, Independence. AZOS HARVEY, Platte Valley. SOLOMON ALLEN, Astoria. J. E. LYON, Dalles. L. B. RICK, Jacksonville. H. HARRIS, Clatsop. JUDGE SHELTON, Felsa, Cal. JAMES L. PIERSON, Will Co. Ill. R. N. PIERSON, DeSoborg, Ill.

OUR EXCUSE FOR ENTERING THE FIELD—AND WHAT YOU MAY EXPECT US TO DO.

Gentle reader, you may be somewhat startled at the appearance of another newspaper, when our territory is already groaning under the infliction of a tax, levied upon the generosity of the people, adequate to the support of four other periodicals which are already in the field, bustling, as best they can, the current of "hard times," and all other adverse currents which a journal has to contend with, in working its way up stream to a position where wind and tide will waft it smoothly along to the ultimatum of its proprietor's aspirations. We believe it was Shakespeare who uttered the following, and applied it to individual fortune:

"There is a tide in the affairs of men, which taken at the flood leads on to fortune."

Perhaps if political and moral society were substituted in place of "men," in the quotation you might begin to "guess" something of the character of our apology.

Society, of whatever order, moral or municipal, has just as truly a destiny, character or "fortune," as Shakespeare's individual; it is just as much subject to an ebb and flow tide, and is as much superior in point of importance, if not infinitely more so, as a state, realm, or nation, exceeds in point of numbers, an individual unit. An individual finding himself invited to launch upon a favorable tide, is, in the abstract from all other society, in the way of connections with or dependencies upon others of his kind, left entirely at liberty, by the laws of God, to rise or to sink, as he may choose.

Whenever new issues are formed, upon which a people for good or evil, we shall rally with those whom we believe to be on the right side, whether in the majority or in a hopeless minority. We have to do with principles and measures, and not with individuals, any further than they are the representatives of the principles we oppose or defend.

We shall give all sides an impartial hearing, and will never be so dogmatical upon convictions as not to listen to arguments. Shall treat all classes with all the respect due to them, always and at all times abjuring everything like vulgarity and personal abuse. We ask all who differ with us to act the part of men, and hear us through before they condemn. We have no fears of the consequences, so far as the general acceptance of the truths we advocate, by the good, morality-loving citizens of Oregon, is concerned, provided they will subscribe for and read our paper.

We shall take the American side in politics, and advocate, as the last and best hope of our poor distracted country, an abandonment of party platforms, a clear emancipation from the shackles that party demagogues have so long forged for the people; and a return, a speedy return to first principles, held sacred by our fathers, and bequeathed to their offspring as the richest legacy they had to bestow upon those whose liberty, happiness and prosperity are all so inseparably connected with the perpetuity of our government.

Every American orator, and statesman, from Washington down to the present time, has reiterated again and again in our ears, the trite truth, that the permanency of our institutions, rests upon the virtue and intelligence of the people. So long as the government is committed to the hands of American citizens, we shall always find a majority of them sufficiently virtuous, intelligent and conservative, to properly control it, meet all new issues arising from the circumstances of the times, and decide upon them properly. But whenever we reach the period in our history, that a corrupt minority of Americans, added to a foreign ignorant class of imported paupers, bought over by unprincipled demagogues, can wrest the reins of government from the intelligent and virtuous majority of American citizens, then the polar star of our hopes will go rapidly down, leaving the dismantled and sinking hull that bears the constitution of our liberties, among the rocks and breakers, bumping against the sands in the impenetrable gloom of a stormy midnight, the cowardly demagogues at the helm having all skulked below.

Emancipate the people of our glorious

smiles of friends or the frowns of our enemies. If you find us in error on any point you will find us honestly so; and when that error is pointed out you will find us ready to abandon it. We always bow with deference to the overwhelming majesty of argument. We shall support nothing but what we believe to be capable of demonstration as truth.

We shall advocate an Oregon prohibitory liquor law, as the last and only hope of the friends of temperance and good order, always distinguishing between individual and social rights. Whilst we deny that our neighbor has any right to sell, or give our children, or our friends, that which will deprive them of their senses, pollute their morals, and sink them lower than the imbruted savage; we cheerfully surrender to all, so far as legislation is concerned, the privilege of manufacturing any liquid poison they see proper, and applying it, both externally as a bath, and internally as a fuel, if they choose. We deny to no man, in his abstract individual capacity, all the rights he found himself in the possession of, when he first came into the world. But when he becomes a member of the social compact; if, in a state of nature, he had the right of cutting his own throat, poisoning himself, living on carrion, or sleeping on a bed of rags infected with the small pox, the moment he presents himself as a candidate for admission into society, we meet him at the door, with the request that he leave his infected rags and murrain beef behind; forego the privilege of using his razor on the throats of his fellows, or offering at public sale, in the heart of society, that which will most assuredly most seriously operate to the great injury of society, and deprive us of our right to the enjoyment of the blessings of peace, public tranquillity, and domestic bliss; and impose a heavy tax upon us, for mending up the evils inflicted upon society by his unrighteous course. Thus much at present for our views of human rights.

We shall by no means publish a paper of one idea; we have a wide range of subjects within our grasp. We aim to print a good family newspaper; just such an one in point of home and foreign news, as to the markets, commerce, war, politics, &c., &c., as will keep our readers well posted up to the events that are transpiring in the world.

Whenever new issues are formed, upon which a people for good or evil, we shall rally with those whom we believe to be on the right side, whether in the majority or in a hopeless minority. We have to do with principles and measures, and not with individuals, any further than they are the representatives of the principles we oppose or defend.

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Union from the shackles of party slavery, teach them to stand erect, with uplifted countenance, to think for themselves, to "prove all things and hold fast only that which is good," in politics, religion, and every other question that comes within their purview, and they will just as naturally seize hold of the right and reject the wrong, adopt all that is good and conservative in the musty creeds of the old, corrupt, expiring present political parties, as they would hail in mass, and with the greatest enthusiasm, a second appearance in our midst of the Immortal Washington.

Whilst we are disposed to leave the institution of southern slavery just where the constitution has left it, so far as its present existence within plainly defined limits, is concerned, a creature purely of legislative enactment, subject to repeal or modification only by those who constitute the sovereigns of the municipal district in which it now exists, yet, whenever a move is made to rivet upon our dear western home an institution which to us would prove only an evil, and that continually, we shall be found rallying on the side of freedom, and oppose, to the last extreme, the introduction of the institution among us.

Our work is confined in the main, to our own adopted land; and we shall urge whatever we consider calculated to promote the prosperity—moral, social, political, educational and agricultural—of a country we have selected as our only home on earth; where we expect to live, labor and die, and which we have always loved with an enthusiasm never exceeded by the attachment of a hermit of the Alpine gorges, for the hills and valleys of his own dear native Switzerland.

The appearance of our journal will be hailed by many, as the rising of a star of hope, in the present lazar, rational horizon of Oregon's future social prospects. The question now is, shall it continue to climb the vault towards which the eyes of the good are turned, until it reaches a permanent locality, or shall it become eclipsed by the clouds, or go down in hopeless gloom!

We have done our duty in setting the project on foot, making head, as we have, against a thousand adverse circumstances, and incurring heavy pecuniary responsibilities; we say to the friends of our undertaking, do yours. We are looking for every subscriber to our paper, to use his influence to extend as far as possible its circulation. Don't forget that we have embarked our all in the enterprise, upon the pledge of friends of reform, to do all in their power for us. The paper we send to every subscriber costs us three times the money we get for it, and if carefully read and remembered will be worth three times the money it costs you.

We have the most cheering encouragements coming in from every nook and corner of Oregon, assuring us that when our paper is issued, it will rapidly increase its subscription list. We know the times at present are pinching, but who ever knew a man to beany poorer for taking a good family newspaper? An Oregon paper, every farmer, mechanic and tradesman must have, or he is fast going down hill in every conceivable manner.

Take our advice friends, and send us your names for the ARGUS, and our word for it you will be none the poorer in this world, or worse off in that which is to come. We shall try hard to suit you all, if we can do so by suiting ourselves. We are sorry indeed to be compelled to start with so small a sheet, but it is the best we can possibly do for the present. We expect to enlarge as fast as we are able, which we hope to do by the end of the year. It will depend upon the increase of our subscription. We have not taken hold of this matter for a moment of consideration. All we ask is a decent support. That secured, and we are willing to spend the balance of our days in doing something for our country.

EDUCATION IN OREGON.

The sparseness of settlements in Oregon, caused by the land monopoly, so signally fostered by the donation law of Congress, which gives to every married settler who resided as such in the Territory, previous to December 1851, a full section of land, has hitherto operated as a great drawback to the cause of common school education. The great body of the domain having been covered by section claims, there are few neighborhoods in the Willamette valley where a school can be regularly supported, of a sufficient size to justify the attention of an experienced and qualified teacher.

Hence there has been but little done as yet in the way of promoting the cause of education among the farming community. The pioneers of the country have hitherto been so much absorbed in such worldly matters as "going to the mines," opening farms, building houses and barns, gathering large herds of cattle to keep the grass from going to waste—besides bringing up the rear with all the other paraphernalia of little items, so indispensable to amassing a

sudden fortune—that some of them we fear have sadly overlooked the great necessity of giving their offspring such an education as will prepare them honorably to bear the burthens of the government, exercise a wholesome influence upon their kind, and cause them to love the memories of their parents, after their gray hairs are under the sods of the valley.

We are pleased to learn, however, that symptoms seem quite favorable of late for a general waking up, among the people, to the transcendent importance of this matter.

Oregon shows some symptoms at present of having come very near the poles of the great moral galvanic battery which has thrown the world into spasms, and caused it to shake off some of the charming anæsthetics which ignorance and animalism had permitted to wrap their hideous hissing coils around the fair form of the body politic, increased by statute to slime their enchanted victims, and swallow them whole, body, soul and spirit. We hope to get still nearer and nearer, till like Moses at the burning bush we shall be able to stretch forth the hand and touch the wire, and get galvanized to such an extent that we may not only shake off the venomous coils of intolerance, and ignorance, but be also able to brush away some of the creeping things which have been crawling over the body politic in the shape of political demagogues.

We care little about the extension of the Missouri Compromise Line, the telegraph line, or the railroad line, in comparison to the line of march which American freemen have lately taken up towards the goal our Revolutionary fathers died pointing their children to. We think Oregon is becoming disposed to fall into ranks. One of the most favorable symptoms we have to record is an apparent general interest on the subject of education. We hear of simultaneous movements in its behalf in a number of places, in different sections of the country. A number of enterprising men, in Polk county, have lately undertaken to erect a house at a cost of some three thousand dollars, for the purpose of combining a good district school with one where all the higher branches necessary to be taught in the country can be acquired. There are some two hundred and sixty acres of land donated to the institution, which will mostly be sold out in lots to suit purchasers who may wish to settle there for school privileges. The building is under contract, to be erected, we suppose by this time. The institution is to take the name of Bethel Institute.

We understand that similar movements are on foot at Newby's mills in Yamhill county, at Davidson's neighborhood near the Luckanuite, also, in Bristow's neighborhood in the forks of the Willamette. All of these places are situated in delightful sections of the country, surrounded by wealth enough, and children enough to support them all. All that is wanting to push them to the scene of success is the will. Stern indomitable persevering will, laughs hard times and all other petty obstacles in the face; it always (when properly directed) right onward and upward, and is sure to wear the laurel of victory. What a glorious laurel had achieved in a contest against "the world, the flesh, and the Devil," that ten-horned monster, old "Hard Times," and all other obstacles for the noble and God-like purpose of bequeathing to our offspring a legacy more priceless than the jewels of Peru, the pearls of the ocean, the gold of California, or all the cattle on the green prairies of Oregon: a legacy, which no adverse fortune can deprive them of, and which will render them infinitely more happy, and useful members of society, than a fee simple to all the land they could span with a telescope from the crowning apex of Mount Hood.

SUCIDE.

We learn that a Mr. Parrish, of Chehalis valley, Yamhill county, put an end to his life on the 7th inst. by blowing out his brains with a rifle. He was found immediately in the rear of an outhouse, but a short distance from his dwelling, having shot away almost the entire front of his head, scattering brains and blood in a most shocking manner. The cause of the fearful act will probably forever remain a mystery. He had, up to the day of his death, been looked upon by his neighbors as possessing a remarkably peaceful disposition, never having quarreled with any one for a period of forty years. Mr. Parrish leaves a family, consisting of a wife and several grown children, to mourn over this sad calamity.

Crops never looked more promising in Oregon than they do this spring. The wheat crop, especially, looks magnificent.

Those specimens of Sandwich Island niceties, laid on our table by Thomas Pope, Esq. are thankfully received; especially so, as the form they "first fruits" of our labors, in the way of editorial sweets.

The Francisco and Agate are taking in cargoes of flour at Portland—the one for California, and the other for the S. Islands.

One of the fastest men of this "fast age" J. W. Sullivan, was upon our table with an excellent file of the "very latest," duly addressed to the office of the Oregon Argus, before we had reached this city ourselves. We suppose, according to Blackstone, the seizure of his package, was the legal token by which we became "seized" of our right to the Editorial chair. If Sullivan is as fast in his general gleanings of the "run of things" as he appears to have been in spying out our office, while it was yet in embryo, he will yet form an excellent subject, out of which some yankee biographer will most assuredly make "a pile."

We made a trip to Portland the other day on the boat bearing the same name. The captain, A. S. Murray, we should be glad to say is a gentleman, and understands the "hang of the ropes" admirably, if we were not afraid some southern paper might charge us with all sorts of things, which those that know us are sure we are never guilty of. Business below, seems to be looking up a little, and many are guessing, "a better time coming boys."

Whenever we can make shipments enough to pay for our imports, we shall be sure we are "all right," and in the language of Davy Crockett, Oregon will "go ahead."

The bark Ocean Bird has just arrived at Portland, and the Devans is daily looked for, both heavily freighted to consignees at Portland and Oregon City. We understand they are to return with cargoes of Oregon exports: the one with flour and the other with lumber.

We refer those who may want anything "on board," to our advertising columns.

We are under especial obligations to James O'Neill Esq., of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s express, for his prompt and disinterested aid in getting sundry materials from San Francisco, on the ground in due time, all "right side up with care."

A CHANCE TO GET YOUR WHEAT TO MARKET.

We understand that Mr. White of Canemah is building a sort of batteau for the Upper Willamette trade, during the "low water mark" season. His boat will carry about 40 tons, and will be worked by about a ten Indian power engine. He will bring produce from the Yamhill country, for ten cents per bushel, and from Corvallis for about 16 cts. This will enable farmers whose wheat has been "mud-bound" in their granaries during the past winter to improve the dry season in getting it to the banks of the Willamette ready for shipment.

We hope a better issue to Mr. White's enterprise than that which has (horresco referens) attended some of the efforts of other "heavy firms" hereabouts.

As our paper will penetrate many parts of the country where Oregon papers are not taken, it will offer great inducements as an advertising medium. We ask all of our friends to use their influence in procuring us job work and advertising.

We expect to devote a column or two to agricultural interests, and invite the farmers to write us short pithy communications, relative to such developments and discoveries as they may have made in this new and interesting field of experiments.

George L. Woods is our traveling agent in the counties of Washington, Yamhill and Polk.

The "Times" was upon our table a week before our first issue, smiling and spitting away for Jo Lane as usual. He seems to have thrown away the keys presented by his quondam friend the Judge, and now prefers operating upon the lock of Old Joe's biscuit and porter satchel with a crooked nail, to using an imaginary golden key upon the gates of fairy castles, where vapory nymphs vanish at the touch.

Well, there's nothing like reality in the enjoyment of things sought after, in this mundane sphere, and crafty is he who can so shuffle his cards as to "get along" well to say the least. We however beg of him, in the name of mercy and "magnanimity," henceforth to spare a quondam friend and fallen foe, and neither to stick any of his arrows of sarcasm into him nor scalp ("skulp") him after he is dead.

EGYPTIAN HAIL STORM.

We are informed by men from the eastern border of Marion county, that on the 7th inst. there happened in that section, the most terrible hail storm ever known in Oregon. The hail fell from the size of a hazel nut to that of a hen's egg, covering the ground to the depth of six or eight inches, and "playing particular smash" with fruit trees and shrubbery. We are informed that the orchard of Geer was injured to the tune of about two thousand dollars, the bark of the trees being literally peeled off, and left dangling from the limbs like so many ribbons. It is feared that some of the wheat fields are literally ruined.

Copies of the Argus can be had at the book store of S. J. McCormick land. Mr. McCormick will also send the names of those wishing to subscribe the paper.

Thomas Pritchard at Portland, is our advertising agent.

'TIS HARD TO KICK AGAIN PRICKS.

Many people are expressing surprise at the Statesman's recent opposition against the telegraph in Oregon—their utter loss at being able to "cojoct" the reason. We see no difficulty in matter. Of course when he saw Jo L. jumping upon Farley at the other end of the line, he understood it too clearly to follow suit by piling into Johnson's end of the same line. We judge, however, that like Lane, he will find himself pulling at the wrong string. The case seems to be parallel thus far at least, as Lane apologized to Congress, and Farley; a the "Statesman" has made his obeisance to the people of Oregon, and to Mr. Johnson and politely backed water.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We take the liberty, at this early day, give a hint or two to those who expect will soon be upon us like "shot from a shell." Don't write for us unless you have something to say worth reading. Say it something in just as few words as possible. Give us ideas instead of verbosity, and those ideas be clothed in chaste language. Combat error and not individuals. We will allow you to cut some, provided your razor be keen and clean; but don't try "saw any legs off" with a crosscut, or try reform anybody by pitching them into dungheap and then laughing at their grotesque appearance.

The fair "VIOLA," of "Iris Hill," is welcome, so long as she confines herself to subjects within our range. If she is as sweet as some of her episodes, her husband (she has any) ought to be a happy man.

TELEGRAPH.

The agents of the Portland and Corvallis line of Telegraph are "blazing out" preparatory to letting contracts for setting the poles. Oregon City, Lafayette, Dayton and Salem, are to be points on route, provided sufficient encouragement be given to the work by those interested in above mentioned points.

Oregon City is expected to do more than she has yet done in our cure an office.

The wires will probably be laid to Corvallis, within a few months.

The gap between the seat of Government and Yreka, Cal. will soon after be bridged, probably within two years, a continuous line from Portland to the Star, bearing upon its vibrating wires mighty events, which ere that time not only shaking the political fabric, but causing the huge Polyphemus Demogogueism in Uncle Sam's dominions to exhibit signs of a tremendous ague chill.

Those writing to us from the west part of the valley will please direct our communications by the way of Portland, at the present. We hope to have an ox-leaven express in full blast from this place to country towns on the west side of the Willamette, before many moons—when we shall be able to hear from our correspondents several times a year. We shall mail our packages for that part of the country at Portland so that you will get the ARGUS news.

Our up-country friends will take particular notice of our advertising columns. They are not long enough to occupy much time in the reading, and they will "pay," at least our advertisers say so, and they are "honorable men."

The scoundrel Boyd, who was set up, from Corvallis, for burglary, to "french leave" of the Albany jail on Wednesday night.

Thanks to Dr. J. P. Gaines.

RESULT OF THE WHIG TERRITORY CONVENTION. J. P. GAINES, Esq. GOVERNOR OF OREGON ON THE TRACK AGAINST JO. LANE, Esq. DELEGATE TO CONGRESS.

Just as we were going to press, we received hand of J. N. Baker, Esq., the proceedings of the Convention from which we hasten to make following abstract: Delegates met pursuant to call on April 18th, Felix Scott, of Lane Co., was chosen Chairman, and J. N. Baker, Secretary. A committee consisting of R. N. McClan, J. W. Huntington, A. P. Ankeny, A. A. Smith, and C. A. B. Smith, were chosen to examine the credentials of delegates. The convention then went to the choice of a delegate to represent the Territory in the next Congress of the Nation which resulted as follows: J. P. Gaines, received 27 votes; M. A. Chinn, 8 " T. J. Dryer, 11 " A. Holbrook, 16 " The result being announced, T. J. Dryer, Esq. Convention. The convention then went in regular session which resulted in the following: J. P. Gaines, 63 votes; M. A. Chinn, 3 " It was then resolved "That the next convention furnish for its officers, be, "George L. Woods, Secy. We understand the result was received with tremendous enthusiasm.