

The Ballot Box.

We commend the following sentiments to our readers, as worthy of being twice read and pondered upon. The author is certainly correct in viewing the ballot-box as pregnant with meaning as to the duty of American Citizens in exercising this prerogative for the promotion of good men, and such only, to offices of trust and responsibility.

"It is a grand thing that here, at last, each voter has just the weight of one man; no more, no less; and the weakest, by virtue of his recognized manhood, is as strong as the mightiest. And consider for a moment, what it is to cast a vote—It is the token of inalienable privilege, and involves the responsibilities of an hereditary trust.

Mormons. "It is reported that the Mormons are not only docile, but are much pleased with their new Governor, (Gov. Steptoe) whom they soon hope to convert to their religious faith—Ex.

The work will be an easy one no doubt, as we understand, he was one of the Douglas advocates of polygamy and slavery sovereignty, as set forth in the Nebraska bill.

Crime in Montreal. The Montreal Pilot of November 11, contains statistical tables, prepared by the Chief of Police, showing the number of arrests, with offences specified, by the police of that city for the months of August, September and October. Some of them are given:

Table with 2 columns: Offense and Number of Arrests. Includes categories like Drunk, Drunk and Disorderly, Vagrancy, Larceny, Suspicion of Larceny, Indecent Exposure, Impeding and Inconvenient, Manslaughter, Furious Driving, Asking for Protection, Other Offences.

Now, does any one ask what right has the civil power to suppress grog shops? Look at these statistics for an answer. The first nine items in the above table, showing an aggregate of 935 arrests, may nearly all be safely attributed to the influence of the grog shop; and the tenth, Asking for protection, is doubtless in part attributable to the same cause.

The Five Points Vote. This noted locality—the most notorious spot in the whole city of New York, if not in the civilized world—cast the following vote at our recent State election: For Ullmann 6, for Clark 7, for Bronson 19, for Seymour, 341!

Louisiana. An election was held in New Orleans on the 9th ult., to ascertain the sense of the people on the question of licensing the sale of strong drinks. In a poll of 10,650 votes, "Pro-use" prevailed by a majority of 5,131.

What the Maine Law is doing for Connecticut. The jails tell the story. In a recent number, we published the record of commitments to New Haven jail and the city watch house for drunkenness and offences resulting therefrom, for one month before, and one month after, the law went into operation—showing a decrease from 123 to 31; or just ninety-two in favor of prohibition.

Significant. A countryman attended one of the President's levees, at which the ladies appeared in full ball dress, that is to say, with dresses cut very low in the neck, and having not so much to the imagination as poetry would require, as to the charms half concealed and half exposed.

Whisky. An article in a virtuous woman ought to indulge in.

SALMAGUNDI.

LICENSE LAWS.

"For so much gold we license thee; (So say our laws,) a draught to sell That lures the strong, enslaves the free, And opens wide the gate of hell: For public good requires that some, Since many die, should live by rum."

Ye civilizers! while the foe Of this destroyer seize their swords, And Heaven's own hail is in the blow, They're dealing, will ye cut the cord That round the fallen fiend they draw, And o'er him hold your shield of law?

Less cutting, think ye, is the thing That to a breathing corpse, for life Lashes in torture leathard and long. The drunkard's child—the drunkard's wife, To clasp that clay—to breathe that breath, And no escape? O, that is death!

Are ye not fathers? When your sons Look to you for their daily bread, Dare ye, in mockery, load with stones The table that for them ye spread? How can ye hope your sons will live, If ye, for fish, a serpent give?

O, holy God, let light divine Break forth more broadly from above, Till we conform our laws to thine— The perfect law of truth and love For truth and love alone can save The children from a hopeless grave.

A New Poem. The London Quarterly, gives a number of extracts from a journal edited and printed by lunatics at the Edinburgh Royal Asylum; among others is a review of the Multiplication Table; a blank verse poem in twelve Cantos; translated from the Spanish by Lord Walker. The Innate reviewer says:

"We venture to say—and we put our foot on the assertion—that, in the whole cycle of English literature, there is nothing that can compete, either in profundity of view or solidity of reasoning, with the following passage, which occurs in Canto Fifth:

Five times five are twenty-five, Five times six are thirty, Five times seven are thirty-five, Five times eight are forty.

Col. Benton in his speech on the Pacific Telegraph bill, tells of a man who had seen five hundred snakes in one day, and not a very good day for snakes at that. Some one doubting the assertion, the man came down to one hundred—then fifty—and having reduced the number to twenty-five, he swore he "wouldn't fall another snake."

Origin of the term "Dunning." Some falsely think that it comes from the French, where duner signifies 'give me,' implying a demand for something due; others from dunnun (Saxon) "to thunder," but the true origin of this expression owes its birth to one Joe Dug, a famous ballist of Lincoln, an extremely active, and so dextrous at the management of this rough business, that it became a proverb, when a man refused to pay his debts, to say, why don't you 'Dun' him!—that is, why don't you send Dun to arrest him! Hence it grew into a custom, and is now as old as since the days of Henry VIII.

Paine's Regret for Publishing his "Age of Reason."

A book once given to the world cannot be recalled. Once committed to the hands of the public, it becomes public property, and cannot be withdrawn. Man has not the power to annihilate his own works—If he gives a bad book to man, it may cost him a life of sorrow and an eternity of woe. Such an act is like time—once gone, it is gone forever. The leaves can be sent forth, but they can never be returned. An author is not at liberty to withdraw what he has once given to the world. Though he may, by repentance, undo in parts what he has done, yet it is not wholly destroyed. How important, then, that every act be good and useful, rather than wicked and ruinous.

The Feeling in Oregon.—Letter from an old Friend of Judge Douglas. With much pleasure we publish the following letter, written to the editors of the Chicago Dem. Press, by our old friend and neighbor Aaron Payne. We commend it to the perusal of every Democrat, Whig, and Know Nothing in Oregon, as a sample of what an honest man will do when his party becomes sufficiently corrupt, to abandon principles which lie at the foundation of good government, and social order, merely at the instance of a few unprincipled leaders.

Mr. Payne is "all right," and will no doubt continue to "go ahead" the balance of his days, a living, moving specimen of a freeman, in every sense of that word. You might as well attempt to chain up the lightning, decoy the American Eagle into a rat trap, or tie up a grizzly bear with a fish line, as to lead captive such men at the will of demagogues:

Editors Democratic Press:—Enclosed you will find the names of fifteen subscribers, accompanied by the cash, for your valuable and interesting paper. In sending this list, which I have taken some little pains to obtain, I feel that I am not only conferring a benefit upon those who through my representations have been induced to patronize so meritorious and worthy a publication, but I am also discharging a duty, which every citizen, who desires the diffusion of true principles, and the disentanglement of the political press of our country from that plant serenity by which (to its shame be it said) the mercenary schemes of aspiring demagogues are too often forwarded—a duty which every one who wishes to elevate and purify the mightiest element that works upon the minds of men, should feel he was under a bound obligation to perform.

Political editors are, perhaps, more than any other class of men, exposed to those temptations to sacrifice private opinion, principle, and conscience, which so often prove too strong for men to resist, when their interest requires that such sacrifice shall be made. And, gentlemen, it is because you have bestowed that temptation, to which, during the past year, so many of your craft have fallen most soulless victims, that I feel proud to add in extending the circulation of your noble, manly, and independent paper.

For forty years I have been a voter and worker for Democratic principles; and during all that time I never dreamed that the principle of the ordinance of 1787, drawn by the comprehensive mind of Thomas Jefferson, and afterwards forming the basis of the Missouri compromise, was an infraction of the Democratic doctrine, of the right of the people to govern themselves.

The leader of the repeal of that solemn settlement, of a dangerous agitation (and I know what it was, for I passed through its scenes,) I have known long and well. From his first arrival in Illinois, till he landed on the floor of the Senate, I know him to have been a firm, unflinching and consistent Democrat. But now that he has made a blunder, it seems to me to be too great a sacrifice for the Democratic party to ruin itself in order to relieve one of its leaders from the responsibility of his own act.

In view then, gentlemen, of the noble stand you have taken—the medium ground—the true ground—equally distant from the "agitator" of the North and South, I asked a few of my neighbors to lend their names, and now send them as a message from the green shore of the Pacific to cheer you in your labors.

Go on in your untrammelled career of usefulness and honor. Make the pole star of principle your guide, and with the weapons of truth for a defence, however mischievous fanatics may rail at your course, and demagogues plot your ruin, the people will see, appreciate and reward your faithfulnes.

Respectfully yours, AARON PAYNE.

The Destruction of Col. Benton's House.

The residence in this city of the Hon. Thomas H. Benton, of Missouri, situated on C street, between Third and Fourth-and-a-half streets, was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon, together with nearly all the furniture, and, most unfortunate of all, the manuscript papers of Mr. Benton. At about 3 o'clock, smoke was seen issuing from the office, or study, of Mr. Benton, in an apparently calm manner; and for a time he continued to look on the men with more concern for the men who were at work, engaged in dry armor, than for any interest he might be supposed to possess in the perishing property.

and found a gentleman, who met him with a kindly welcome. "Sir, I have not the honor of your acquaintance," said the young man. "I know you very well, though," replied the gentleman, "and permit me to present you to my daughter," leading the astonished youth to a beautiful young lady seated on the sofa. After some general conversation the father signified his wish to be alone with the stranger. The daughter modestly withdrew, and he revealed himself as the blind beggar of the church-stone—said he had, during twenty years, accumulated a fortune through begging, and would now present him with his daughter and her dowry, because he was sure that she was an honest man. It need not be added that Italian poetry did not prevent the young man's accepting the price of her treachery, nor that it led him again to the church to thank the Virgin for this wonderful answer to his prayers, and to hang a silver chain, in acknowledgment, before her image.

The following, written in an elegant business hand, was inscribed on the back of a five dollar bill, lately received in New York from North Carolina: "Here is a \$5 bill which I intend to tow out of my window, in Norfolk, as soon as I have written this. I am now no lover of money. I hate it most cordially, for it has been the ruin of all my family. I will beg from door to door eternally rather than own another cent one hour. It made my grandfather a suicide, my mother the victim of a sorrow that sunk her early to the grave, my brother a gambler, and myself a convict in the States prison four years."

No one can improve in company for which he has not respect enough to be under some restraint. Zed without judgment is an evil, though it be zeal unto good.

Clackamas County Whig Convention. Pursuant to notice the delegates from the different precincts of Clackamas County met in Convention in Oregon City, Saturday April 28, 1855, for the purpose of nominating candidates to be supported at the ensuing June election.

On motion, Maxwell Ramsby was appointed Chairman, and James O'Neill, Secretary. The Convention then proceeded to nominate candidates for County officers, as follows: Representatives—Gilbert Reynolds, J. N. Banker, Wm. T. Matlock. Sheriff—James O'Neill. Co. Commissioners—middle district—Geo. Higginbotham. South dist.—Jas. D. Miller. Assessor—W. J. Bradbury. Treasurer—Elijah Milwain. Co. Surveyor—Joseph W. Trutch. Coroner—Forbes Barclay.

The following named gentlemen were then appointed County Committee for the ensuing year:—W. C. Dement, W. H. Vaughn, Wm. Barlow, Albert Tudor, Jas. D. Miller. Resolved—that the proceedings of this Convention be published in the ARGUS and "Oregonian." M. RAMSBY, Ch'n. JAS. O'NEILL, Sec'y.

Educational Meeting.

At a meeting held at McMinnville, April 23d, of a portion of the citizens of Yamhill, F. B. Martin was called to the Chair, and S. C. Adams appointed Secretary. H. H. Hendrix, being called on, stated that the object of the meeting was, to take preliminary steps towards the erection of a suitable building for a high school, or Academy, as preparatory to a College at this place.

After considerable discussion, as to the necessity and feasibility of such institution, on motion of Dr. Jas. McBride, voted, That we do proceed to establish an institution of learning, by taking the necessary steps for the erection of a suitable building.

On motion of H. H. Hendrix, voted that a committee of three be appointed to solicit subscriptions. The Chair appointed Dr. Jas. McBride, W. T. Newby, and J. G. Baker.

On motion voted that we elect seven men as Trustees for the management and disbursement of the fund raised, and who shall have power to fill vacancies, and shall hold their office till the first Thursday in October and till their successors are elected and qualified. The following persons were then elected as Trustees: W. T. Newby, S. F. Staggs, E. M. Adams, F. B. Martin, T. J. Shaddon, J. O. Henderson and S. C. Adams.

On motion voted that the several papers of the Territory, be requested to publish the proceedings of this meeting. Adjourned to the last Saturday in May, F. B. MARTIN, Ch'n. S. C. ADAMS, Sec'y. [All Oregon Papers please copy.]

BETTER DAYS COMING, BOYS.

Oregon City, April 25th, 1855. MR. EDITOR:—The dawn of a new era, like the introduction of a new theory, is certain to meet with more or less opposition, the chief source of which exists in the prejudices of early—defective—education. These prejudices are but the legitimate influence of primary impressions. Gain, self-interest, is another source of opposition. In some instances, this kind of opposition is very potent. These two opposing agencies must be encountered by the new era, whose date is synonymous with the birth of your youngest offspring, with its "hundred eyes."

A respectable portion of the public rejoice that they have occasion to congratulate you on behalf of the positive evidence, that you recent product evinces unusual, indigenous, precocity. Welcome, thrice welcome, among us, is the "ARGUS." The spirit that will characterize its moral doctrines, will infuse itself into the heart of every lover of morality and there originate the mechanical resolve that shall give "material aid"—the needful. The readableness—the ability of its articles will, doubtless, be of the first character, and will give very general satisfaction. Long have we needed what the ARGUS promises to be, an antidote to the moral miasma of the greater part of the Oregon Press.

The ARGUS has undertaken a great work, a great reformatory work—such a work as all good, patriotic citizens desire to see progressing. What, then, is our duty relative thereto. Most certainly, to furnish the requisite pecuniary aid—to subscribe, one and all, immediately. REFORMER.

Singular Emotion. The following, written in an elegant business hand, was inscribed on the back of a five dollar bill, lately received in New York from North Carolina: "Here is a \$5 bill which I intend to tow out of my window, in Norfolk, as soon as I have written this. I am now no lover of money. I hate it most cordially, for it has been the ruin of all my family. I will beg from door to door eternally rather than own another cent one hour. It made my grandfather a suicide, my mother the victim of a sorrow that sunk her early to the grave, my brother a gambler, and myself a convict in the States prison four years."

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