

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OREGON CITY:

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1855.

Agents for the Argus.

J. R. McBRIDE, Lafayette.
C. A. REED, Salem.
MORGAN RUDOLPH, Sublimity.
WM. BARLOW, Molalla.
H. C. RAYMOND, Forest Grove.
DR. DAVIS, Bloomington.
FRANK W. BROWN, Corvallis.
AMOS HARVEY, Plum Valley.
SOLOMON ALLEN, Amity.
J. E. LYLE, Dallas.
JOHN MCKINNEY, Calapooia.
REV. WILSON BLAIR, Union Point.
L. A. RICE, Jacksonville.
H. HARRIS, Cincinnati.
JUDGE SNELLING, Yreka, Cal.
JNO. B. PRESTON, Will Co. Ill.
R. A. N. PHELPS, Galesburg, Ill.

Law Concerning Newspapers.

If it subscribes after the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrearages are paid.
If it subscribes neglect or refuse to take their papers from the post office, or other place, to which they are sent, they are held responsible until they settle all arrearages, should there be any.
If it subscribes remove to other places, without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.
If it is not sufficient for a postmaster, when a paper is not taken out of his office, to return one with "not taken out" written on the margin, but he must write a letter to the publisher, giving the name and post-office, and stating that the paper is not taken from the office. Otherwise the postmaster is held responsible.

Back at our Post.

We reached home on Thursday evening, just as the sun was "hastening to dip himself in ocean," and tingling all our western mountains with a glorious golden hue. We took Washington, Yamhill, Polk, Marion, and Linn counties in our circuit, and saw many of our old friends, besides forming many very agreeable new acquaintances.—We were unable to visit many of our friends upon whom we intended to call.—But we have been much strengthened and encouraged by what our eyes have seen and our ears have heard, during the short time we have spent in the country. The strong grasp of many an honest hand, the approving smiles of many a face of beauty and intelligence, the cordial welcome to many a cheerful fireside, and the words of consolation and encouragement we received from many, such as compose the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world," have certainly given us new assurances that our efforts in behalf of truth and righteousness are not altogether in vain. The intelligence and real weight of moral character in Oregon are unmistakably on our side. Victory is destined sooner or later to perch upon our flag-staff. Let the friends of truth and good order in society keep on their armor, always remembering that your "adversary, the Devil, is going about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

Express to the Mines.

Mr. Banker informs us that Wells, Fargo & Co. have dispatched a special messenger to the new mines near Fort Colville in Washington Territory, for the purpose of ascertaining "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," in relation to the reported gold discovery. The messenger will probably be back in about two weeks at farthest, when we shall publish their report. If the mines prove to be good, Mr. Banker informs us, that Wells, Fargo & Co. will immediately make arrangements for keeping up a regular train of communication between this country and the diggings.

Arrival of the Mail.

The Columbia, Capt. Dall, arrived at Portland on Sunday morning at 2 o'clock, bringing the mail from the States. The news will be found in our columns.

Loss of the Steamship America.

By the Crescent City Herald, Extra, of June 27, we learn that the splendid steamer America was totally destroyed by fire in the bay of that city on Sunday, 24th June.—There was no insurance on the vessel, and Capt. Wright, its owner, estimates his loss at \$140,000. She had come to anchor a short time before the fire broke out, and the cargo was all saved. No lives were lost. She was on her way to Puget's Sound, with a company of U. S. Infantry, numbering 132 men, under the command of Major Prince.

The Willamette Baptist Association.

Met in Yamhill county on the 27th of last month. Quite an amount of business, we learn, was transacted. Among other things measures were taken to place two ministers in the field as itinerants. The statistics show a nett increase of 232.

Thanks.

Mr. James O'Neill, of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express Company, Portland, will please accept our thanks for his politeness in furnishing us with files of the latest papers from California and the States.

We are also under special obligations to J. W. Sullivan, Esq., San Francisco, for late papers.

At His Old Tricks.

We have been informed that the Corvallis Statesman in a late issue publishes a letter pretending to have been written by some person in this city, making certain statements in reference to the interview we had with Jo Lane during his electioneering visit to this place. We say we have been informed that such is the fact, because we have never yet seen the number spoken of, as the vagabond who conducts that organ of "natural know-nothingism" has, true to the promptings of his natural instinct, and in strict conformity with his general course towards us, kept back the dirty sheet that contained the slander above referred to.—Whoever he issues a sheet containing something false or slanderous in reference to us, he invariably refuses to send us a copy of that issue.

Now, all we have to say in reference to his production is, that it is false, and was doubtless written by the editor of the Statesman, as we do not believe there is a man in Oregon City so steeped in moral degradation as to be willing to deliberately sit down and make up a batch of such falsehoods.—The thing shows itself to be fully equal to the character and talents of the creature who originated it. Hereafter when you publish anything particularly dirty, try to muster up courage enough, young man, to send along an exchange, as we want to keep a regular file of your paper for future use.

The next generation will wonder at the ignorance and animism of a community which ever supported, in an enlightened age, a paper of the character of yours.

"Stanton, the 'tin peddler,' of Coeymans, well known in Albany county, does good service for temperance in his peregrinations among the people. Among other things, he has obtained 25 subscribers to the Prohibitionist."—Albany (N. Y.) Prohibitionist.

A pretty smart peddler, that Stanton; but we have a peddler out here in the wilds of Oregon, named Vandervert, who could follow after your Stanton, from one month's end to the other, sell three tin pans to Stanton's selling one, put off a fanning-mill at every third house, get two subscribers to the Argus, whilst your peddler gets one to the Prohibitionist, besides making himself generally useful by enlightening the natives on temperance and politics, basking out the "fighting cocks," and looking after the interests of his "firm," and of "Uncle Sam," in a variety of ways. If you have any idea of entering Stanton at the "World's Fair" for a prize, let us know it betimes, and if our Vandervert don't bear off the golden goblet to Oregon, it will be because our farmers are so needing his indispensable services that we cannot spare him at the time the fair goes off.

Howell Prairie, Marion County.

This is one of the finest portions of Oregon, and we are disposed to view it with a little partiality at present, perhaps, from the fact that we have lately received a list of new subscribers from that section, sent to us by a respected friend there. In addition to our former list, this makes up, we believe, the largest number of subscribers to the Argus, in proportion to the population, of any place in Oregon, out of the towns.—Howell Prairie is situated about eight miles a little North of East from Salem, the capital of the Territory, in a delightful section of the country, on either side of which Pudding.

"Deep-dimpled, rolls his cozy tide."
The soil is of unequalled fertility, to which, joined with the industry, enterprise, and hospitality of its inhabitants, generally, we may ascribe some of the best farms and finest orchards in the whole country. If the present spirit of improvement is persevered in, that prairie will soon become, if it is not already, the garden spot of Oregon. †

Grasshoppers out South.

A friend who has lately been out in the Umpqua region informs us by letter that the grasshoppers have eaten up all the grass in that country, and have taken to the wheat, oats, corn, potatoes, &c. The farmers are engaged in cutting their wheat and oats, but not the color of milk is found in the grain. They think it will make food for stock.

S. J. McCormick, Esq., Portland, of the Pacific Express Company, has laid us under obligations to him for late papers, and the July number of Godey's Ladies' Book.

The democrats have elected every member of Congress in Virginia, with one exception, namely, Smith, American, member of the last Congress, formerly Governor of the State, and familiarly known as Extra Billy.

The majority for Wise in the State is about 10,000, while Pierce's majority was over 13,000. The entire vote reached 175,000 or 180,000—being 30,000 more votes than have ever been polled in that State before. There are about 10,000 Irish laborers engaged on the public works in Virginia, all of whom, of course, voted against the American ticket.

The Kinney expedition has been abandoned.

The Seat of Government.

We understand that Gov. Curry is on the point of removing his office and the archives of the Territory from Corvallis back to Salem, in accordance with late instructions received from Washington to that effect—and that the commissioners are about to go to work and finish the State-House, upon which no work has been done since the action of the Legislature last winter. From the Washington correspondence of the Statesman, in reference to this matter, we learn that the Secretary of the Treasury has decided that the seat of government can not be changed without the assent of Congress, and that the money appropriated to finish public buildings at Salem can not be applied to buildings to be erected at any other place; basing his decision upon the ground "that Congress, in ratifying and confirming the old location law, made it her own act, and that as a consequence the Legislature can not repeal the law and remove the seat of government without the assent of Congress." Attorney General Cushing also concurs in this opinion.

From Virginia.

The election in Virginia has, contrary to almost universal expectation, resulted in favor of Henry A. Wise, who is elected Governor by 10,000 majority. The democracy throughout the Union are highly elated thereat, and rejoice with exceeding great joy, which they manifest by the firing of cannon wherever the news has gone. According to one account, President Pierce and his Cabinet were almost crazy with excitement, and, for a time, war with Spain, the difficulties in Kansas, and Sebastopol, were all forgotten in the transports of enthusiasm—while Pierce called Wise his savior, his deliverer, and other like endearing names. And all this hubbub, what is it about? Why, nothing more nor less than that staid old Virginia, a State that has been democratic for fifty years, has still gone democratic, but by a reduced majority. Had the Americans succeeded there would have been some cause for exultation on their part, but we can see no excuse for the insane exhibitions of joy in certain quarters, on learning that Wise was not beaten, unless it be found in the fact that the democracy were awfully scared, and were apprehensive that the Know Nothings would gulp them all down in Virginia, as they had done elsewhere.

But, on reflection, a person who has a tolerable knowledge of the condition of Virginia will not be at all surprised at the turn affairs have taken there. In the mountain districts of that State are to be found some of the "most heaven-forgottenest" people in the known world, to live in a land of Christians—and it is no wonder that Americanism met with a rebuff in a State which contains nearly 100,000 adult white persons who are unable to read and write. Look at Massachusetts, the land of colleges, schools, and Bibles, of literature, science, and refinement—there the American candidates succeeded by a majority of 50,000. But, to give an instance or two of the ignorance prevalent in Virginia, we will mention the case of a Methodist preacher, who, some years ago, was itinerating in Rockingham county, (which, by the by, gave Wise over 2000 majority,) and stopping for the night at a house near the road side, entered into a conversation with the lady—her husband having taken no notice of the stranger's entrance, being too intently engaged at a game of cards, with two or three others, around a barrel head,—and in the course of the conversation she asked him what his business was, to which he answered that he was "seeking the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

"Old man!" said she, turning to her husband, "I say, old man, them that sheeps that was here 't'other day must have bl'nded to this feller!" And a colporteur traversing the same county, and offering some Testaments for sale, and telling his hearers, for their information, that the books he had contained the life of Jesus Christ, was met by such replies as, "who's he?" "don't know him," "no sich a man 'bout here," "what office is he running for?" &c. We do not wonder at Sam's flight from this benighted region, and would advise him to stop till after the first Monday in August in the good old State of Kentucky, where he will find a clime more congenial to his refined feelings. †

Coos County.

We were in error last week in giving Coos county as having gone for Gov. Gaines by 51 majority. It gave Gen. Lane 35 majority, making his majority in the whole Territory 2235. The error was copied from the Statesman.

The shipment of treasure from California for the month of June, 1855, amounted to \$3,891,945.

It is said that the Know Nothing State Convention, which recently met at Syracuse, New York, resolved to perfect, as far as possible, a national organization, and to go into the Presidential campaign as a party entirely distinct from whig and democrat.

Riot and Bloodshed in Portland, Maine.

Neal Dow, Mayor of Portland, Maine, some time ago purchased about \$1,000 worth of liquor for the city Agency, under the new law. It appears that Mr. Dow had stated to one of the Aldermen that he had purchased the liquors upon his own individual responsibility, and ordered them to be brought to the city and stored there. This being apparently in direct violation of the law, a complaint was accordingly made to the Police court and the Judge issued his warrant for the seizure of the liquors. A crowd gathered around the door where the liquors were stored, and commenced assaulting the building, breaking the doors, windows, &c., when the military appeared upon the ground. The crowd were warned to disperse, upon refusing to do which, the Mayor gave the order to fire, which was not obeyed by the officer, on the ground that he did not think the circumstances authorized it. The crowd took to throwing brick-bats pretty freely, and the police commenced firing pistols charged only with powder. During this melee Mayor Dow ordered the military to fire upon the crowd, which was done, one man being killed, and many seriously wounded.

Mayor Dow's course is severely commented upon by the papers opposed to the liquor law, and the opinion is expressed that if the military had not been called out no harm would have been done. This took place on Saturday, June 2. A public meeting of the citizens was held on Monday, June 4, and Mr. Dow requested to resign.

California Political News.

The Democratic State Convention has nominated John Bigler, the present Governor, for re-election. For Lieut. Gov., Saml. Purdy; Judges of Supreme court, Myron Norton, Charles H. Bryan; Comptroller, T. C. Flourny; State Treasurer, Dr. B. F. Keene; Attorney General, B. C. Whiting; Surveyor General, S. H. Marlette; State Printer, G. H. Croslette.

Ex-Gov. Foote, Hon. Edward C. Marshall, and Hon. Ballie Peyton, are stumping California in favor of the Know Nothings. The two former gentlemen have heretofore been prominent members of the Democratic party.

The Westminster Review.

For April, lies on our table. This is the most American, in tone and feeling, of all the quarterlies of Great Britain, and has ever been a favorite with us. The only drawback to it are the articles savoring of infidelity which are occasionally to be found within its pages. We should regret a war between England and the United States more on account of the Westminster Review, the men who conduct it, and the party whose interests it supports, than any other. The No. before us contains an article on the Administrative Example of the United States, in the outset of which we find the following sentiment expressed: "Henceforward, it is no longer England, but the North American Republic, that has become the pole-star to which, from all sides, the eye of struggling nations turns."

For terms of this and the other Quarterlies, see fourth page.

"Flora" Again?

ED. ARGUS: Dear Sir—I was much pleased and gratified with the musical entertainment furnished by Prof. G. P. NEWELL, and his juvenile singers on the Fourth of July. Indeed, so much so that I beg leave to suggest the propriety of the Professor's giving a repetition of the same in our City at some future time. I should like to hear it again, and have an opportunity of sacrificing at least one bouquet of flowers to "Flora," and so, I believe, would many others. VIVANT.

OREGON CITY, June 12, 1855.

We feel very much like "seconding the motion" of "Vivant," as we were so unfortunate as to be absent from the city at the time of the musical performance. We heard it every where spoken of with rapturous applause by those who were in from the country. We learn that Professor Newell intends to take his juvenile class of this city to Portland on some day of next week, for the benefit of our Portland friends. We think he will certainly give our city the last and best benefit.

Spain and the United States.

The Madrid correspondent of the Paris Siecle, under date of the 6th ult., communicates the following: "The government has received communications of a very recent date from the representative of Spain at Washington. This minister felicitates himself on the good intentions of the United States, and on the nature of his relations with the Washington Cabinet, which has again just reiterated to its agents in all the ports of the Union formal instructions to oppose every attempt at an expedition against the Island of Cuba."

Miss Beecher, sister of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, shut the lock on the report that she was recently insulted in Virginia.—"Nothing occurred during our stay that was deemed anything but the kindest and most distinguished hospitality, and I trust all editors who have contributed to disseminate a false impression of the chivalry of the Old Dominion will insert this rectification."

European News.—Progress of the War.

April 30 is the date to which correspondence by mail from the Crimea reaches. At that date the English fire was mostly suspended. On the night of the 24th a combat took place between the Russian and French sappers. The object of the Russians was to dig new rifle pits, which the French undertook to prevent. Constant firing and bayonet work continued from 8 o'clock evening till 3 o'clock morning, when want of ammunition compelled both parties to cease. The Russians had under fire actually dug and retained several new pits. Two hundred French were killed and wounded. The French had, however, pushed their sappers considerably forward and mounted several new guns. On the 26th Gen. Canrobert reviewed the whole of Gen. Bosquet's army of observation, consisting of 45 battalions of infantry, 4 regiments of cavalry, and 60 guns. The affair was magnificent in the extreme, and Canrobert made the most of it in oratorical display. The review was quite visible to the Russians, but only one sullen gun showed that they were awake and watching proceedings. May 1st, the advances were approaching slowly though surely.

Lord Raglan's dispatch of May 1 says: "I have little to report to-day. The Russians continue actively engaged in covering their advanced works, and they have constructed a new battery on their left of the Mamelon. Troops are constantly in motion on the north side, and there is every appearance of the establishment of a very large camp on the plateau above the Belbek, extending towards Mackenzie's Farm. No movement has been perceived on the Chernaya."

The following are supplied to the papers by Lord Pannure: "The Russians made a sortie on the night of the 11th on the advance works of the left attack. They moved forward in two columns, but both were immediately repulsed with considerable loss. The conduct of our troops was admirable. Our (British) loss was one officer and five men killed and thirty wounded."

"Evening of the 10th the Russian hoisted a flag of truce, with the view to bury their dead who were killed the night before in front of our advance. The truce was granted. During the night the enemy opened a heavy fire on our trenches and maintained it for two hours, but did not attack our advance parallels."

Prince Gortschakoff's dispatches of date the 8th are as follows:

"From the 5th to the 6th of May the allied armies were occupied principally in augmenting their batteries and re-enforcing their approaches against the central bastion. Accordingly their fire, which has become more active, has been directed against the Flagstaff and Central bastions and the Selinghinsk and Volhynia redoubts. The garrison replied. In the night of May 3 and 4 the besiegers sprang two mines to unite the old crater formed by previous explosions. The garrison made use of several camoufflets. In the night of May 5 and 6 we made a little sortie, and took an English officer and three soldiers prisoners. Three powder-magazines in the allied batteries blew up."

May 16.—Gen. Cranrobert telegraphs: "We continue our works before the place. Various attempts to smoke out the enemy (by camoufflets or stinkpots) have perfectly succeeded. Our troops continue in excellent spirits; they are full of ardor and confidence."

The French Government is understood to have received despatches, announcing heavy rains, and that the trenches were full of water, thereby suspending operations.

Count Coronene, the Austrian Commander-in-Chief, has proclaimed martial law in the Principalities.

The Capitulation Tax on Christians in Turkey is finally abolished.

A new manifesto from the Czar orders another levy of twelve men in every thousand in the western provinces, to be completed by the end of July.

A reconnaissance had ascertained that the Russians have 25,000 men at Laki near Eupatoria.

VIENNA, Friday Evening.—Things have undergone a change. New Austrian propositions were yesterday forwarded to London and Paris. It is said Austria will give her material support to the Western Powers, should they accept, and Russia reject her propositions.

VARNA, May 17.—There is a heavy firing every night at Sebastopol.

The expedition to Ketsch has not been renewed.

Three divisions of the French army have left Maslak for the Crimea.

London, Saturday morning.—Quiet had been restored in the Ukraine.

Telegraphic intelligence from Berlin and Vienna fails to confirm the report that Count Nesselrode had resigned.

Drouyn De L'Huys, the French minister, had resigned, owing to his unwillingness to carry on the war, being opposed to a protracted war. Count Walewski, the French ambassador at London, had been appointed his successor.

The English press admits that the hopes of peace have departed, and that no assistance can be expected from Austria, and but little from the rest of Europe; and consequently France and England must fight it out to the end. The Times has an article

expressing these sentiments and stating that it is impossible to peruse the official documents of the Vienna Conference, without coming to the conclusion that Russia was never in earnest in her desire for peace.

Lord Palmerston evaded answering the question, in his place, in Parliament, "Whether the conferences are not finally broken off?" but it is said that accredited representatives, representing all the Powers, including the Russian, continue to reside at Vienna, so that the elements of another conference permanently exist.

Paris papers assume a tone of outspoken hostility to Austria.

The bill to abolish church rates had been carried to a second reading in the Commons against the Government by a majority of 28.

Russian Account of the Vienna Conference.

The settlement of the first point is declared to be the fulfillment of a promise which Russia has made to guarantee the prosperity of the Principalities. The Emperor decided the second point in favor of the commercial liberty of all nations.—

The third point concerned the balance of power in Europe, but was incompatible with the honor of Russia. The Plenipotentiaries of France and England refused to deliberate upon the 4th point, the most important of all for Christendom.—Journal de St. Petersburg.

Indian War on the Plains.

Accounts from the Plains, received through various channels, agree that the Indian tribes are assuming a very hostile attitude against the whites. Several tribes combined, numbering three thousands warriors, having thrown up fortifications at the source of the Grand River. It is reported, however, that the Savages seem inclined to act on the defensive, although the provocations made are of such a formidable character, as to leave no doubt but that an indiscriminate slaughter of the whites will occur the first favorable opportunity.

What Prospects.

One of our oldest subscribers has just returned from a tour through Harrison, Carroll, Tuscarawas, Knox, Licking, Richland, Haron, Sandu-ky, Erie, Ottawa and Wood counties in this State, and he informs us that never in his life—and he is now up in years—has he seen the wheat fields look more promising at this season of the year. Should no unfavorable circumstances occur between this and harvest the largest wheat crop ever produced in Ohio will be gathered.—Steubenville (O.) Union.

Survey of Washington Territory up to March 31, 1855.

We make a few extracts from the communication of the Surveyor General of Washington Territory, which plainly show the necessity of active co-operation on the part of the Government to secure its interests. There are already settlements made within the land claimed by the Hudson's Bay and Puget's Sound Agricultural Companies, by American citizens, and it is time that these conflicting claims between the United States and England should be satisfactorily adjusted. The third article of the Treaty of the 14th August 1846, between the United States and Great Britain, provides that, in the future appropriation of the territory south of 49 degrees north latitude, "the possessory rights of the Hudson's Bay company, and of all British subjects who may be already in the occupation of other property lawfully acquired within the said territory, shall be respected," and the fourth article of the same treaty, which declares that "the farms lands, and other property belonging to the Puget's Sound Agricultural Company on the north side of the Columbia river, shall be confirmed to the said Company," within a stipulation that if the United States Government should signify a desire to obtain possession of the whole or any part of this property, it should be transferred to the United States at the proper valuation, to be agreed upon between the parties; since which time nothing satisfactory having been done to settle these claims, it becomes the duty of the Surveyor General to ask for particular instructions relative to these surveys.—Washington Union.

The Crops in Illinois.

The Illinois Journal, Springfield, says that reports from the country are not so flattering as they were a week or so since in regard to the wheat crop. The fly and bug have destroyed several promising fields in the vicinity of Chicago, and in Logan Christian and McLean counties, we are informed, their depredations have been even more extended.

For Minnesota.

Within the first ten days of navigation to the port of St. Paul, the number of emigrants to Minnesota territory, for permanent residence, exceeded eight thousand. The Mayor of St. Paul, on the 26th of April, had at his dinner, asparagus and green peas, raised in the territory.

Peru.

To compensate the owners of the liberated slaves for the sudden loss of their property, by their enfranchisement, a million of dollars is to be distributed among them, at the rate of three hundred dollars for each slave. Peru is agitated by the canvass for members of a constituent assembly to remodel the government.

The Know Nothings carried the city of Washington at the late municipal election by 600 majority.

Secretary Dobbin has just issued a series of regulations designed to encourage the enlistment of boys in the navy. None will be taken less than fourteen nor more than eighteen years of age, nor without the consent of their parents, and a good constitution. They will be divided into three classes, and receive eight, nine, or ten dollars a month, and money instead of spirit rations, according to the class in which they rank. The navy (says the Evening Post) is a good place for bad boys and a bad place for good ones.