

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
OREGON CITY:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1855.

Agents for the Argus.
J. R. McBRIDE, Lafayette.
C. A. REED, Salem.
MORGAN RUDOLPH, Sublimity.
W. M. BARLOW, Molalla.
H. C. RAYBOND, Forest Grove.
DR. DAVIS, Bloomington.
FRANK W. BROWN, Corvallis.
AMOS HARVEY, Plam Valley.
SOLDON ALLEN, Astoria.
J. E. LYLE, Dallas.
JOHN McKINNEY, Clatsop.
REV. WILSON BLAIR, Union Point.
L. A. RICE, Jacksonville.
H. HARRIS, Clatsop.
JUDGE SHELLEY, Yreka, Cal.
JNO. B. FRESTON, Will Co. Ill.
R. A. N. PHILLIPS, Galesburg, Ill.

Law Concerning Newspapers.
If subscribers order the discontinuance of their papers, the publisher may continue to send them until all arrearages are paid.
If subscribers 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 subscribers remove to other places, without informing the publisher, and the paper is sent to the former direction, they are held responsible.
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.

Pacific University.
The yearly examination of the classes of the collegiate and preparatory departments of this institution came off on the 20th and 21st instant. The inauguration of the Rev. S. H. MARSH as the first President of a college or university in Oregon took place on the day following. The students of both departments had a joint exhibition on the evening of the same day.

We reached the ground on Tuesday, the 21st, in time to witness the examination of the class in Arithmetic, under the instruction of Mr. Shattuck, and the classes in Latin and Greek, under the charge of Mr. Marsh. From the manner in which the examination was conducted we were satisfied that the proficiency exhibited by the students was real, and the result of rigid and thorough discipline, instead of a deceptive, parrot-like performance of what had been drilled into them expressly for the occasion, as is too often the case in some of our institutions of learning. The scholars seemed to exhibit a familiarity with the principles of the sciences they are pursuing which reflects a good deal of credit upon those who have had them in charge, for having endeavored to direct them to something more than a mere skimming the surface, which leaves the student not only ignorant of the real elements of science, but cheats him of that intellectual discipline which by no means constitutes one of the secondary objects of a scientific course of study. The teachers appeared to us like men who have entered upon their work with their whole heart and soul, aiming to make a business of instructing, and deeply interested in every thing pertaining to the advancement of the institution with which they are connected.

There is a fine library belonging to the University, containing, as near as we could judge, some four or five hundred volumes, and embracing many valuable and interesting selections. We were also informed that an excellent philosophical laboratory has recently been provided, and will soon be fitted up for use. We noticed that the museum belonging to the institution contained many rare and exceedingly interesting curiosities. In respect to its size and the variety of its contributions it already surpasses those of many older institutions.

On Wednesday, the 22d, a very respectable concourse of the neighbors and friends of the institution assembled to witness the inauguration of the President. The exercises consisted of:

1. An Invocation, by Rev. E. Walker;
2. Reading of the Scriptures, by the same;
3. Singing, by the Choir;
4. Prayer, by Rev. C. Eels;
5. Singing, by the Choir;
6. Inaugural Address, by President Marsh;
7. Oath of office, administered by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees;
8. Singing, by the Choir;
9. Benediction.

The inaugural address was listened to with much attention. The matter and style of it were such as would alone be expected to emanate from a clear and educated mind, and a heart warmed up with those noble Christian impulses which can alone put the finishing touch of beauty to the most gigantic creations of intellect. After being heard, however, it needs to be carefully read, in order to be perfectly understood.

The exhibition in the evening went off very creditably to all concerned. The only thing we regretted was, that instead of giving us declamations some of the young gentlemen had not favored us with original orations. There was talent enough

there to have made a very respectable appearance in the way of original speeches, if it had been compelled to show itself. We were informed that the young gentlemen had been left to arrange and conduct the exercises of the evening wholly among themselves. There were several young speakers who, with proper perseverance and training, will yet make very fair orators, if they never excel a Cicero or a Bourdaloue.

The choir for the evening consisted of a number of young gentlemen and ladies of the school, who had been under the training of S. A. Dixon, for a few days preparatory to the exercises. We do not profess to be a judge of music, but we thought this part of the performance was not only excellent but admirable. The singers all did well, but when the "Exhibition Song" was sung, we doubt whether Fanny Komble ever made a more successful debut on a theatrical stage, than did Miss KINNEY on the stage at Forest Grove. We understood she was a daughter of our old friend "Bob Kinney" in Yamhill. Her father ought to have been there to hear her sing and read Latin and Greek. We wonder why he wasn't. In fact we wondered why there were not many more of the friends of education there than we saw. It seems to us that if a man has lost nearly all interest in the subject of education by crossing the plains, and living for years in the backwoods of Oregon, he can adopt no better plan to renew his zeal than by attending such an examination and exhibition as we had at Forest Grove. If a man has any soul at all, let him attend one or two of these public exercises, and our word for it, he will go home with the determination to sell off a few horses and cattle, and part of his claim if necessary, in order to give to his children such an education as the God of Heaven designed they should have, and which it is his imperative duty as a father to place them in possession of. Let him contrast the condition of those who have enjoyed the benefits of intellectual culture with that of such as have been raised in ignorance, and he will see a sufficient motive to begin to move in this matter, and that speedily. What avails it if we add farm to farm, herd to herd, and fill our coffers with gold uncounted, if we finally pillow our heads in death, bequeathing our property to a family of ignorant heirs?

Better, infinitely better, to put their share of the legacy in their heads, and leave them moneyless, homeless, and with a single shirt to their backs, than send them forth to the world with a full purse, an ignorant pride to sharpen, and walking only by the light of their parents' experience. The difficulties that have hitherto attended the education of our children, are now in some measure obviated. The noble and persevering friends of education have toiled through a long dark period of difficulties and overcome almost innumerable obstacles in order to found institutions of learning, in our far off western home. A number of institutions are, in consequence of their labors, already in full operation, from which a few of our citizens are already reaping benefits incalculable, and not to be computed by gold or precious jewels. These institutions need more patronage, in the way of an increase of pupils. Our citizens have the children and an abundance of means to enable them to fill these institutions to overflowing. Why will they not do it?

The Pacific University ought to have two hundred students from the Tualatin Plains. Give her this number of students, and enable her to carry out her plans unembarrassed by pecuniary difficulties, and she will exert a mighty influence for good, which will not only light up with a new aspect the moral and social condition of the adjoining neighborhood and counties, but will be sensibly felt in the remotest extremities of Oregon.

A Great Geological Discovery.

We have now lying upon our table a fossilized mammoth grinder of the Mastodon Maxims, which was found in a small branch at Canemah a few days since, by Mr. Saml. K. Barlow. The grinder was perfect when discovered and weighed three pounds. No less than seven species of the Mastodon have been discovered in different parts of the world, three in Europe, two in South America, one in India, and one in the United States. That which has been found in the United States is the largest specimen the world has ever produced, and has consequently received the name of M. Maximus. In the Museum of Mr. Peale, of Philadelphia, there is a skeleton put up which measures fifteen feet in length, and eleven feet in height. The bones of the Mastodon have never been discovered farther east than Burlington, Conn., whilst vast numbers of them have been found in the neighborhood of Big Bone Lick of Kentucky. We have now the pleasure of announcing the first discovery of the kind on the Pacific coast by our old friend S. K. Barlow, who is known all over the Union as the old pioneer who cut the first wagon road through the Cascade Mountains.

News Direct from Colville Mines.

We take the following statement from an Extra issued this week from the Oregonian office. It seems that the report brought back by Messrs. Bennett and Wilber, who have just returned from spying out the land, is of rather an evil, or discouraging character. It will probably cool off the fever with multitudes who were getting rather warm to be comfortable. Others again we notice, are closing their ears to all reports, and seem determined to act upon their first convictions, from the testimony of the Half-breeds, and go out and look for themselves.

There may be but little gold on the Pend Oreille, or on many other streams in that country, but that rich mines will yet be discovered somewhere between this and the head waters of the Columbia, we do strongly believe, and we hope that somebody will keep prospecting till it is found.

To The Public.
The undersigned deem it their duty to inform the public that they have just returned from the Colville mines. That we arrived at the mouth of the Pen d'Oreille river on the 12th of August; that we prospected around the country for five days; that we found gold in small quantities at every place we tried, from the tops of the hills to the lowest valleys, but not in sufficient quantities to pay for working.

We saw several persons who had ascended the Pen d'Oreille river for the distance of 30 miles. All agreed in the statement that gold exists all over the country. But as yet no deposits had been found which would pay for working. Men are making from 50 cts. to \$3 per day to a man. The country is rugged, sandy, and mountainous. There is no gold bearing quartz and little slate, but large quantities of black sand. The Indians are perfectly friendly, and express a desire to have the whites come in and work the mines. Many of the Indians had small quantities of gold dust. There were large numbers of persons who had gone out returning. Some, however, will remain. It will take about eighteen days gold traveling to reach the mines from the Dalles. The wagon road to Whitman's Mission is the best route; grass and water was plenty on that route when we traveled over it, while the other is rough and barren. We have no advice to give. Go to the mines, or stay at home—as you please.—The above is a simple statement of facts.
W. H. BENNETT,
HIRAM WILBER.
PORTLAND, AUGUST 28, 1855.

Massacre of Emigrants at Devil's Gate!

Mr. John Wiggins, a son of Billy Wiggins of St. Louis, Mo., has just called at our office and given us the following information, in reference to the rumored massacre of emigrants at Devil's Gate. The train consisted of 19 wagons, 3,000 head of stock, and according to the statement of Capt. Doniphan, of Missouri, who was captain of the company, there were 300 souls. Mr. Wiggins says he has no means of knowing the exact number of people in the train, but he heard Capt. Doniphan say there were about 300. The greater part of the company were from Missouri.

They left St. Joseph, Mo., on the 15th of March, and got along very well until the 15th of July, when they camped at Devil's Gate for the night. Up to this time they had seen but few Indians on the road, consequently they became careless, and declined "standing guard" at night. About one o'clock at night about 2000 Sioux and Cheyennes charged upon them whilst the whole company was sound asleep, killing all but six men, six women, and seven children, and driving off every animal.

Among those who were killed were Capt. Doniphan, Col. Pierre Choteau, of St. Louis, Col. Gilpin, of Jackson co., Mo., Saml. Lane, and family, of Indiana, (brother of Joseph Lane, of Oregon,) Mr. Cody, and family of Platte co., Mo., Dick Murphy, of Weston, Mo., Mr. John Wiggins, our informant, lost his whole family, consisting of a wife and three children.

The savages, after a hurried slaughter of such as fell in their way, retreated to the mountains, driving the stock before them. In the morning the survivors packed up what provisions they could well carry, burned the wagons and everything that remained, and then started for Salt Lake on foot.

They accomplished the journey in thirteen days, four of which they were without a morsel to eat. They laid their case before Brigham Young, who kindly called a mormon council levied a contribution and fitted them out with five teams, with which they continued their journey to Sacramento city. Mr. Wiggins is now on his way to Portland, where he has a brother residing. He has walked in from Sacramento city.

There Certainly must be a Gold Mine Somewhere in Oregon.

Mr. S. K. Barlow informs us that some two years or more since there was a grouse killed in the neighborhood of Philip Foster's, the crop of which contained, among a fine lot of pebbles, a piece of gold of the value of fifty cents. Mr. B. assures us that he saw the gold, and knows it to be a fact. Now don't everybody leave your farms and go to hunting for that gold mine.

Another Indian Hung for the Murder of Clark's Family.

We learn that the party of twenty-seven men who went over to Tillamook Bay some fifteen days ago, in search of the other murderers of the family of the Rev. Mr. Clark, succeeded in taking and hanging another Indian who was acknowledged by the chief of his tribe to have been connected with the villain who was hung at Lafayette some weeks since, in the Yamhill butchery. We hear, also, that the chief's squaw was in some way connected with the affair, as having either "aided and abetted," or as having had some knowledge of the intentions of the murderers before the act was perpetrated. After mature deliberation, the company concluded that her crime was of such a nature as could only be atoned for by the "loss of her hair." She was consequently shorn of her "raven locks," and turned loose. We hear that her mortification and rage were almost unbounded. She poured out a perfect torrent of abuse upon what she thought to be a barbarous set of barbers, and vowed that she would take to the mountains and live entirely alone, until her tresses had grown out to their ordinary length.

Another Search for Gold.

Samuel K. Barlow, who has immortalized his name by cutting the first wagon road through the Cascade Mountains, and discovering a part of the skeleton of the Mastodon at the Willametta Falls, Oregon, has now gone, in company with Philip Foster, to search for gold on the head waters of the Du Shutes. There has long been an opinion prevalent in this country that gold could be found somewhere in the country passed over by Meek and his company in 1845. Several companies have started out to prospect that country within the last four years, but for some reason each and every effort has as yet proved an entire failure, the companies all having disbanded and returned before they even reached the spot for which they set out. This is the second time Mr. Barlow has started on this expedition during the present summer, and we hope he will now be able to satisfy himself whether there is any foundation for the thousand legendary tales that have been going the rounds for the last few years about the rich gold diggings on "Meek's Cut-off," or not.

Trouble with the Greasers in California.

We see by the California papers that the Mexicans have robbed and plundered in some parts of that State until the whites have become so exasperated that they have taken them in hands, and are determined to hang a goodly number, and banish all suspicious looking greasers from the country. The papers complain that nothing can be done towards civilizing them, as a race, as they are of such a clannish nature that they band together in little squads wherever they settle, and steadily avoid mixing freely with their neighbors, consequently little or nothing is learned from the example of their superiors.

What People Lose by Not Taking the Papers.

We notice that notwithstanding the law requires all letters to be prepaid before they can be forwarded, some people back in the brush, who don't take the papers, are constantly dropping letters into the P. O. box without paying the postage. We notice a list of such posted up, upon the door of our city post office, which will be sent to the dead letter office unless they are called for, and for the benefit of parties concerned we will give the names of the persons to whom they are directed: D. H. Morris, G. Williams, H. H. Spalding, M. C. Leslie, Mr. Kitchens, D. W. Milster, Alex. McAllister, Isaac Blevins, Abr. Barnhart, D. L. Willson, E. T. Davis.

Mormons in Ohio.

We learn from the Cincinnati Times that on the 1st of July, ult., a party of some fifty mormons crossed over the Ohio river, for the purpose of baptizing some eight or ten converts. Upon arriving at the place designed, the converts were required to strip to their linen before they were taken into the water. An old man, Alex. Williams, after having been baptized, struck out into the river for the purpose of a swim. His feet became entangled in his drawers, and disabled him from making the trip. His son, a young man of twenty-three years of age, plunged in to his rescue, but not knowing how to swim, went down with his father to rise no more for about an hour, when they were both hooked up.

Arrival of the Mail.

The steamer COLUMBIA arrived at Portland last Sunday morning, August 26, bringing the U. S. Mail. The important war news will be found on the outside of today's paper.

Conventions in New York.

It seems they are to have a lively time of it in New York during the present fall.—We see notices of something near a dozen conventions, of various stripes, which are to come off in due time. The Anti-Nebraska (Republican) meets at Syracuse, Sept. 26. Whig State Convention, same place, same day. K. N. State Council, same place, Sept. 25. Hard Shell Democratic, same place, September 5. "Gentlemen of color," Troy, Sept. 4. Pierce Dem. Soft Shells, Syracuse, August 29. Van Buren Democracy, same place, August 22. Republican, Seward, Anti Slavery Fusion, Auburn or Syracuse, August 22. Woman's Rights, Saratoga, August 15th and 16th. Lager beer and whiskey sellers and manufacturers, "Sag Nichts," &c., &c., fusion convention, August 8th.

New Hampshire.

The chairman of a committee of the legislature of this State, to which was referred the Maine resolutions upon the subject of slavery, reported a string of resolutions recommending the free States to drop all questions of a minor importance and plant themselves upon the following platform:

1. A restoration of the Missouri Compromise at all hazards.
2. No more slave territory to be admitted into the Union.
3. The abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia.
4. The unconditional repeal of the Fugitive Slave Act.
5. The protection of the people of the Territories from unlawful invasion by Slavery propagandists.

Kansas.

The Legislature of this Territory met at Pawnee on the 24 of July. After both houses were regularly organized a message was received from Gov. Reeder, from which we learn that the present population of Kansas amounts to 8516 souls. The Legislature fixed upon Shawnee Mission as a temporary seat of government, but Gov. R. vetoed the act, whereupon the Assembly passed it over his head, and adjourned to Shawnee Mission. The prospect seems to be that the Gov. and Legislative Assembly ("The legislative power and authority over these squating 'sovereigns'") will not work together very harmoniously. Gov. Reeder versus the Redoubtable Stringfellow.

It seems that soon after the return of Gov. Reeder to Kansas, from his visit to Pennsylvania, Stringfellow called at his (Reeder's) office, and demanded some explanation as to what Reeder had stated in some of his speeches cast in reference to the lawless ruffians of Missouri having been instigated to their conduct by this Stringfellow. The Gov. falling to render satisfaction, an angry confab arose, during which both drew pistols and were advancing upon one another when they were separated by a bystander. Stringfellow kept up the mess, till some remark from Reeder, who had seated himself in his chair, provoked Stringfellow to make an assault upon him, *omnibus unguibus*. During the melee Gov. Reeder got his face considerably scratched and bruised by the talons of the invincible Ajax of Missouri chivalry.

Crops.

The accounts from almost every part of the Union, represent the crops as very fine. The harvesting was generally over, and the new grain was beginning to pour into the markets. Wheat in Illinois and Indiana rated at about \$1.00.

Greytown to be Paid For.

The N. Y. Herald says that a number of claimants have reached Washington direct from Greytown and Nicaragua, with large claims against our government for property destroyed in the bombardment of Greytown. The Herald thinks it will be about a five million haul.

Crimean Recruits.

A number of persons have been arrested in Buffalo charged with recruiting men for the Crimea. In default of \$3000 bail each, they were committed to jail.

Loss of Col. Kinney's Vessel.

The vessel on which Col. Kinney had embarked for Nicaragua, was wrecked on the Caios Reef, between St. Domingo and the Bahamas. The party with the Col. numbered twenty in all, exclusive of the crew. It will be recollected that while the government vessels strictly prevented the sailing of the steamer United States from New York, Col. Kinney privately took his departure in the Emma, on the 6th of June. The vessel had a successful passage until the night of the 19th, when she struck upon the Caios Reef and proved a total loss, with a large part of the stores and effects of

the passengers. No lives were lost. The passengers proceeded to Tarks Island which they reached in five days time. Here Col. Kinney was negotiating for the charter of another vessel to carry them to Nicaragua. The party were in excellent spirits, notwithstanding their disaster.

Mormon Apostles for Washington.

We see by some of our exchanges, that several Apostles have been sent out from Salt Lake for the purpose of "opening the eyes" of our neighbors over in Washington Territory.

Ohio.

The Republicans of Ohio have nominated the following State ticket:

- For Governor—Hon. Salmon P. Chase;
 - Lieut. Gov.—Col. T. W. Ford;
 - Supreme Judge—Jacob Brinkerhoff;
 - Auditor of State—F. M. Wright.
- California N. N. Nominations.
For Governor—J. Neely Johnson;
Lieut. Gov.—Mr. Anderson of El Dorado;
Judge of the Supreme Court—Judge Murray, (long term); D. T. Terry, (short term);
Comptroller—B. Whitman;
Treasurer—Dr. Bates of Shasta;
Attorney General—Wm. P. Wallace;
Surveyor General—Brewster, of Sonoma;
State Printer—Allen, of the Marysville Herald.

Obligations.

We received per last steamer a fine lot of papers, pamphlets, and pictorials from J. W. Sullivan, also exchange papers from Wells, Fargo & Co., and the Pacific Express. J. W. Sullivan sent us a June number of Harper's Magazine, instead of the one for August, but the fastest wags are sometimes liable to stumble.

Express to the Mines.

We understand that James O'Neill has declined going to Fort Colville as he contemplated, but has sent out the express matter by another agent.

The Response.

We publish to day a response to "Miss Viola," in the way of an apology from an old bachelor for not having long since tasted the sweets of conjugal felicity. We think it but just that both sides should be heard.

Immigration from Fort Colville.

Numbers are daily arriving from the mines, who seem to be entirely satisfied with gold digging. They represent the travel to and from the mines to be about equal.

Ballou's Magazine.

Somebody has sent us Ballou's Dollar Magazine, with request to "notice." We will most cheerfully do so, as we have carefully perused it for that purpose. But in doing this we must claim our privilege of always speaking our honest sentiments without partiality or making invidious comparisons. Our honest opinion in reference to this magazine of the far-famed Ballou is, that it is "small potatoes, and very few in a bill." Its selections and original tales, so far as we have examined them, are of a light, trashy character, that might suit a giddy girl of thirteen, or a soaplock of twenty-one, who has little or no taste for solid literature, such as we find in those magazines that publish fiction that means something, when they resort to romance to fill up now and then a vacant column, excused from mirroring forth the sober realities of a surrounding universe, all made up of fact and truth.

In looking over the Editor's Table we find an article aimed at the vitals of temperance, by opposing, in a very soft and sneaking way, it is true, the passage of a prohibitory liquor law. We would as soon think of carrying home for a toilet table an empty whiskey barrel, fresh from a grogshop, and reeking with the fumes of "old rye" and tobacco spit, with which drunken bacchanals had smeared it all over, as to think of placing a magazine upon our center table for our wife and daughters to read, that advocates the license to carry beggary, woe, and death, into our households by making drunkards of the heads of families.

With a family magazine, as with some beau ideal of female loveliness, we always associate the idea of moral beauty, and spotless purity. How would a man's heart sink within him to find the creature of his adoration, whom he had imagined to be almost an angel in purity, sitting beside a center table on which stood a decanter of whisky! The bottle and Ballou would do very well to go together.

China.

The progress of the rebellion is little talked of just now. The prevailing famine has compelled the insurgents to give over fighting, at least on any scale; starvation stares every one in the face, and the Imperialists have it all their own way; but the frightful famine now dominant may produce a not less fearful reaction, augmented and hastened by the horrors which famine inevitably occasions.

The Insurgents still hold Nankin, but we do not hear of their making any advancement toward Pekin.