

THE OREGON ARGUS.

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Job Printing.

THE PROPRIETOR OF THE ARGUS IS HAPPY to inform the public that he has just received a large stock of JOB TYPE and other new printing material.

OUR COUNTRY.

Our Country!—'tis a glorious land— With broad arms stretched from shore to shore.

From Putnam's Magazine for June.

There are gains for all our losses, There are balms for all our pain;

New Dome of the Capitol at Washington.

The workmen have commenced framing the scaffolding for the construction of this novel and magnificent structure.

A friend may be often found and lost, but an old friend can never be found; and nature has never provided that he can easily be lost.

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, Editor and Proprietor. AMERICA—knows naught of golden promises of kings. VOL. 1. OREGON CITY, OREGON TERRITORY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1855. NO. 23.

The Suspension Bridge at Niagara Falls. The Buffalo Democracy gives a very interesting description of that magnificent triumph of art, the suspension bridge which carries the Great Western Railroad across the Niagara River, and so connects the United States with Canada.

We were aware that the bridge had the tremendous span of upwards of 800 feet, and that it stands 245 feet above a flood that no man has been able to ferry; but we were scarcely prepared to find that the structure is of such majestic strength as it appears to be.

"Delicate as lace work and seemingly light and airy, it hangs there high between Heaven and the boiling flood below, more solid than the earthed of the adjacent rail-ways. The conceptions of fast-moving trains are sensibly felt miles off through solid rocky soil. In cities locomotives shake entire blocks of stone dwellings.

There are in the Bridge 624 'suspenders,' each capable of sustaining 30 tons—and all of sustaining 18,720 tons. The weight they have ordinarily to support is only 1000 tons.

The Towers are each 15 feet square at the base, 60 feet high above the arch, and eight feet square at the top. The limestone of which they are built will support a pressure of 500 tons on each square foot without crushing.

Among the interesting characteristics of this splendid architecture is its elasticity. The depression under a load commences at the end, of course, and goes rapidly across.

So solid is this Bridge in its weight, its stiffness and its staying, that not the slightest motion is communicated to it by the severest gales of wind that blow up through the narrow gorge which it spans.

Next to violent winds, suspension-bridge builders dread the trotting of cattle across their structures. Mr. Roebling says that a heavy train running 20 miles an hour across

his Bridge would do less injury to it than would 20 steers passing on a trot. It is the severest test, next to that of troops marching in time, to which bridges, iron or wooden, suspension or tubular, can be subjected.

This great work cost only \$400,000.—The same structure in England (if it could possibly have been built there) would have cost \$4,000,000. It is unquestionably the most admirable work of art on this continent and will make an imperishable monument to the memory of its Engineer, John A. Roebling.

[The tubular bridge built by Robert Stephenson over the Menai Straits for the Chester and Holyhead railroad, in England, cost the company a million sterling.]

Return of the Jews. Among the most remarkable and significant occurrences of the day is the prospect that a large number of the Jews are about to return to their native land, after being widely scattered for a long series of years.

We see it stated that Sir Moses Montefiore, who lately passed through Vienna on his way to Palestine, goes there to purchase a large district in the country, to settle upon it the Jewish paupers of Jerusalem. Eventually his purpose is to settle there also all those Jews who feel inclined to return to the country of their ancestors.

The N. Y. Journal of Commerce, gives an interesting account of the frigate Congress. She was built at the Portsmouth Navy Yard, and has been pronounced by eminent judges one of the best models of a ship in the U. S. Navy.

This humbug dogma of the Romish Church seems to have been supported by a large majority of the dignitaries of the Church, the world over. Full returns having been received by the Pope, Germany makes the biggest protest.

MORE MORMONS.—A correspondent of the Desert News, writing from Liverpool, says that eighteen hundred persons have left that port for Salt Lake this season.

LITERATURE.—In the second ward of New York, there are publications having an aggregate circulation of over 2,000,000 of each number of the different papers and periodicals. The largest is 300,000—that of the 'Child's Paper.'

The Halifax papers assert that the money has been subscribed in London to construct a line of submarine telegraph between some part of the British possessions in America and Ireland.

A Defense of Russia. A paper has lately been started at Brussels, in Belgium, under the patronage of the Emperor of Russia, who allows the editor a salary of \$5,000 per annum, and appropriated a fund of \$40,000 for its support.

"Up to the present time, in this great political contest, a defense of Russia has not been attempted except by some of the American and German journals. That defense is not intended for that numerous class of readers who have recourse alone to the French journals for information;—we will plead before them this cause, which has been so badly set forth, so much misunderstood, and so badly appreciated.

"Such are our reasons, and this why we have chosen the title inscribed at the head of our columns. We say plainly and above board;—we are the voice of the North—a frank, sincere voice, interpreted by a loyal conscience. We ask that honest people of all countries and all parties shall judge us by the same impartial conscience.

"The French journals, and most of the English journals, have, up to the present time, labored hard to demonstrate that a critical examination of the actual state of European politics, and the facts which they have themselves created, prove conclusively that Russia is in the wrong.

"They will attempt, perhaps, with an apparent well-meantingness, (they have done so already,) to say that we are compromising our hosts, and that the Belgians ought, to a certain degree, be flattered, by our attempting to speak in their midst, a language which, worthy and suitable though it be, may not always be entirely to the taste of the Governments which are to the West and South, the nearest neighbors of Belgium.

"Between a portion of Europe on the one side, and Russia on the other, there exists an evident misunderstanding. They do not know Russia in Europe. This ignorance is not the fault of Russia. It is too little known. Living by itself, its influence and weight have not been much felt abroad.

"We will not take the trouble of demonstrating (it is so, and we don't know that it has ever been denied), that Russia, during the last century and a half has made immense progress, and has overtaken the nations which had precedence of it in the march of human progress. It is, therefore, wrong, in decanting upon the men and things of Russia, to impute that to a crime which is simply the result of the difference of their social state, and that of the rest of Europe.

"This Empire, full of youth, heart, and strength, should not be considered as an idle and rebellious school-boy who refuses to submit to the restraint imposed upon him by his master. No; for Russia

has learned much in Europe, but she has learned with a judicious discernment, and by no means wishes to be a thoughtless and servile copyist.

"Russia has a history, a religion, and a nationality very distinct from that of the rest of Europe, which has a common history—a common feudal Catholic origin. It necessarily follows, then, that the constituent elements of social order in Russia must be different, and will develop themselves according to their proper nature.

"Our task shall be to prove the negative—to illustrate it, and to remove these groundless apprehensions. If we attain our object, we will do much for the re-establishment of peace, which is truly the wish and certainly the interest of all. We will argue but little—we will seek to prove much. We will prefer facts to theories, and we will endeavor to give the West some idea of the affairs of Russia from the organization, social, political, judicial and administrative, to the true tendencies of an empire, which occupies a large proportion of the surface of Europe, and which numbers among its inhabitants a fourth of the population of this part of the world.

"The sentiments herein expressed may be regarded as the sentiments of the Czar himself. The article is moderate in its tone, but the conscious superiority which it breathes through every line must be particularly galling to the Allies. The Czar of all the Russias—the absolute ruler of one of the most powerful nations in the world—by the establishment of this paper, admits that he is anxious to plead his cause before the people of Europe, and that he values their good opinion.

The Steam Whistle.

Many persons who are constantly in the way of listening to the horrid howl of the steam whistle, are unacquainted with the mechanical means by which the effects are produced. The whistle is formed of two cups, placed one above the other, and opening towards one another. The lower cup is nearly filled by a ball or gland, so as to leave a narrow annular opening 1-32 inch in width around the edge of the cup.

Postages.—From a card published in the San Francisco papers by Post Master C. L. Weller, we extract the following rates of postage:

Letters of less than half an ounce weight to any portion of the State, or Oregon and Washington Territories, three cents; prepayment required. Letters of less than half an ounce, to the Atlantic States, ten cents, and must also be pre-paid.

Every man carries a world within himself, by knowing which, he may know all the rest of mankind.

The superfluities of professed Christians would send the Gospel to the whole world.

A man that hoards riches and enjoys them not, is like an ass that carries gold and eats thistles.

The Principle of Prohibition.

At the late New Jersey State Temperance Convention, the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen delivered an address, in which he strongly combated the opinions advanced of the unconstitutionality of a prohibitory liquor law.

"The clause of forfeiture of the liquor seems to have alarmed some minds besides counselors who have spoken through the press. A moment's thought will relieve the fear. There is no magic terror in the word. For what is a fine but a forfeiture of so much of a man's property to the State. Suppose that in the law against horse-racing the law-makers had assessed the fine according to the worth of the horses—say, for instance, \$1000 or \$2000—would it not be taking the property of the transgressor quite as resolutely and substantially as by forfeiting the horses. It is 'taking my property,' says the objector; and is not every fine taking away your property? Yes, and if that does not arrest the forbidden race or prohibited sale, the law may take your person next, and that, together with your property, put the one in the Public Treasury and the other in the Public Prison—and this, until the authority of the law is maintained and vindicated.

"The true nature and just aims of all sound government is to guard the rights, interests, and morals of the whole people."

Coast and Shore Line of the United States.

The Coast Survey, now progressing, develops very many interesting facts in relation to harbors, shores and coasts. That portion of the report of Coast Survey issued on the 12th of July, 1854, gives us our extent of seacoast on the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, as follows:

The shore line of the state of Maine, including bays, islands and all irregularities, 2,486 miles; of New Hampshire, 49; Massachusetts, 886; Rhode Island, 320; Connecticut, 262; New York, 980; New Jersey, 540; Delaware, 118; Maryland, 509; Virginia, 654; North Carolina, 1,641; South Carolina, 756; Georgia, 684; Florida, east coast, 2,474, west coast, 1,562; Alabama, 315; Mississippi, 287; Louisiana, 2,950; Texas, 1,330.

The above figures give the northern Atlantic coast, including that of Maryland, at 6,150 miles; southern Atlantic, from Maryland to the Capes of Florida, 6,369 miles; the Gulf coast, 5,744—total south Atlantic and Gulf, 11,953; total Pacific from boundary of San Diego to the mouth of Frazer's river, 3,251.

Of the Pacific coast, 1,343 miles are immediately contiguous to the ocean; 483 miles of shore line of bays; 707 miles of shore line from Cape Flattery to Frazer's river; 414 miles of shore line of islands from Cape Flattery to Frazer's river.

The area of the slopes of the continent towards the oceans, the lakes and the Gulf, is as follows: The Pacific slope, 766,002 square miles; Atlantic slope proper, 514,416; Northern Lake region, 112,649; Gulf region, 325,537; Atlantic, Lake and Gulf, east and west of the Mississippi, 952,602; Mississippi valley, drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries, 1,217,562; Atlantic, including Northern Lake, 627,065; Mississippi Valley and Gulf, or middle region, 1,543,000.

Over two-fifths of the national territory is drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries, and more than one-half is embraced in what may be called its middle region.—One-fourth of this total area belongs to the Pacific, one-sixth to the Atlantic proper, one twenty-sixth to the Lakes, one ninth to the Gulf, or one-third to the Atlantic, including the Lakes and Gulf.—Pittsburg Journal, July 2.

Anecdote of the Revolution.

Col. William Williams, a delegate in Congress from Connecticut, after having signed the Declaration of Independence, said to one of his companions: "If we are defeated in our struggle for independence, this day's work will make bad work for me. I have held a commission in the rebel army, I have written for the rebel newspaper, I am the son-in-law of a rebel governor, and now I affix my name to this rebel Declaration. My sins are too great to be pardoned by our royal master: I must then be hanged." The other gentleman answered: "I believe that my case is not so desperate, for I have had no connection with the army; nor can it be proved that heretofore I have written or done anything obnoxious to the mother country." The immediate and prompt reply was, "Then, sir, you deserve to be hanged!"—Anecdotes of the Revolution.

Every man carries a world within himself, by knowing which, he may know all the rest of mankind.

The superfluities of professed Christians would send the Gospel to the whole world.

A man that hoards riches and enjoys them not, is like an ass that carries gold and eats thistles.

The loquacity of fools is a lecture to the wisest.

There comes forever something between us and what we deem our happiness.