

The Oregon Argus.

W. L. ADAMS, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR. OREGON CITY: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1855.

Agents for the Argus. J. H. McBRIDE, Lafayette. C. A. REED, Salem. MORGAN RUDOLPH, Sublimity. W. M. BARLOW, Molalla. H. C. RAYMOND, Forest Grove. DR. DAVIS, Bloomington. FRANK W. BROWN, Corvallis. AMOS HARVEY, Plum Valley. SOLOMON ALLEN, Astoria. J. E. LYLA, Dallas. JOHN MCKINNEY, Clatsop. REV. WILSON BLAIS, Union Point. L. A. RICE, Jacksonville. H. HARRIS, Cincinnati. JUDGE SWELLING, Yreka, Cal. JNO. B. PRESTON, 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 state that the paper is not taken from the office. Otherwise the postmaster is held responsible.

Temperance. At the suggestion of several friends we have carefully read the long editorial under the above head in the third number of the Advocate. We expected, when we saw that the article was based upon a text taken from a prospectus of the Advocate which asserted that, "On the subject of temperance it will take high grounds, advocating those measures which experience has shown in other States to be highly salutary and beneficial." We say that we expected to read an article indicating still a determined purpose to "take high ground" upon the subject of temperance, an article setting forth in a plain, honest, and manly way, a position to be taken upon this subject explicit and tangible, and satisfactory to the friends of temperance in the Methodist church in Oregon, and encouraging to the temperance friends in other denominations, and of the world, as indicating a clear determination on the part of that body to co-operate with us in endeavoring to secure the desideratum for which we press to be laboring. But Alas! Alas! If the church is to follow in the paths marked out by that article, which forms the leader of the third number of the organ of the denomination, how have all our fond hopes been crushed, and our pleasing anticipations been disappointed! Instead of taking high ground, as a unity of purpose and a definiteness of object would require, we now discover that what we first thought to be a typographical error or lame composition, is re-quoted as a correct guarantee of the future course to be pursued upon this matter, and the article in question would seem to indicate that the Advocate is indeed intending to take a good many "grounds." We rather doubt whether the term "high" could be correctly applied to more than one of them, however. We have never been so much puzzled to get at the meaning and the drift of an article in our life; and if any person thinks he understands it, we advise him to read it over carefully twice more before he renders his final decision. The platform as laid down in that article seems to contain a plank from all the platforms, both temperance and anti-temperance, that we have ever heard of. We have no idea that the article is the work of any single individual, but we are inclined to think that in making out this programme the five "Publishers" and Editor resolved themselves into a committee of the whole, and each individual was allowed to put in a plank of his own personal fancy, in order to give great breadth and variety to the "platform," and enable them to fulfill their promise to take "grounds" (a good many, we think) upon the subject of temperance. After informing us that as "truthful" men they intend to fulfill their promise by taking "high grounds" upon this question, we are informed that "considerable curiosity not to say solicitude has been exhibited as to the specific ground the paper would take upon the subject of a prohibitory liquor law.—Some have expressed fears that the paper would not be radical enough upon that point" (temperance men, we presume,) "and others that it would be too much so," (grogglesellers, probably, and their supporters.) "Some have conceived that if it do not strenuously advocate a specific form of legislation, it will not redeem its pledge of devotion to temperance," (temperance men again,) "and others, that if it do, promises of neutrality in party politics will be violated" (rummies, of course.) Some considerable time is spent in thus pointing out the peculiar delicacy of their position in being compelled to steer so as not to dash against

the Scylla of temperance support, or to be drawn into the Charybdis of liquor sympathy. At one time we are induced to believe that they intend to abjure every thing but moral suasion; at another, that some "form of legislation" is necessary. But whether that "form of legislation" is to consist in opening the liquor traffic as free to all, or in the "wholesome restraints" of license laws, or whether any kind of a prohibitory law will receive its sanction, we are at a loss to determine. We are informed, however, that "In recording these statements it is not intended to commit the paper incautiously or obstinately to any specific form of legislation, for that might be premature." Not one of the temperance members of your church wants you to "commit the paper incautiously, or obstinately to any specific form of legislation," but we trust, and are well assured, that the real temperance men of the church, (of which we are proud to say there are some that have not bowed the knee to Baal or Bacchus,) will never be satisfied short of a clear, open, and manly position in favor of a prohibitory law. They don't want either a Maine law or a New York law, but they do want an Oregon law, the best that the wisdom of our Territory can devise, free from all the objections laid against the laws of the States, and for that object they have labored, and will continue to labor, although "eminent legal authorities have decided against the constitutionality of a prohibitory law." If, as you inform us, "the Supreme Court of the United States has declared it constitutional to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors," and if "some sort of legislation is necessary," why might it not be well to commit the Advocate to a support of a wise and wholesome prohibitory law for Oregon? It seems, however, that the Advocate is not satisfied that the evils resulting from intemperance require "legislative interference" at present. If that be not its true position, how are we to understand the following?

"That the evils of intemperance as resulting from the liquor traffic will, ultimately, require legislative interference, is, in our judgment as certain as that any other form of evil demands such interference, or has received it. Precisely what that form of legislation should be, we are not prepared to state, because we do not know the strength of the popular sentiment, without which a law forbidding alcoholic traffic would be a dead letter, and might retard, rather than advance, the desired object."

There is so much ambiguity, and so many apparent contradictions in the whole article, that we are sadly at a loss to discover what the true position (if there be any) taken by the paper is. Judging by the latter clause of the paragraph just quoted, we should conclude that the "legislative interference" spoken of, consisted in the passage of some prohibitory law; but when we recollect that we have been informed in a preceding paragraph that "it is not intended to commit the paper incautiously or obstinately" (decidedly, we suppose,) "to any specific form of legislation," we are inclined to the conclusion that the paper is not to favor ("obstinately," or decidedly at least,) any kind of legislative interference with the evils of intemperance, for the present. Well now, friend Advocate, there is not a doggy keeper in Oregon who would not take "higher grounds" than that upon the necessity of immediate "legislation." They are all in favor of a license law, at least, and look upon "free trade" in liquor as unfavorable to monopoly, and as attaching no sort of respectability to the calling, and for aught we know, as not placing a sufficient check upon the "evils of intemperance."

It seems, however, that when it learns "what the strength of the popular sentiment" is, it may possibly fall in with the popular opinion, and second whatever the people wish. Now we always thought it to be the business of all public men, and of all public journals, (that are honest,) to take correct "ground" upon questions affecting the public good, and if the "popular sentiment" was wrong endeavor to correct it. Demagogues, and their organs, are alone expected to tail out to "popular sentiment," whilst reformers, in every age of the world, have been found considerably in advance of public opinion, leading it onward and upward to "higher ground."

Another new discovery has been made, and that is that the subject of temperance is not a political question. Now we, who are sufficiently in advance of our old "moral persuasion" friends, to advocate the passage of laws taking hold of this matter, are in the habit of considering it just as much a "political matter," as the subject of a tariff, a bank, or any other question of legislation affecting the social or pecuniary well of society. A temperance candidate, running upon the temperance question, is just as much a political candidate, as the men who join issue upon the question of a bank, or any other question, proposed for legislative action. It has been by making it a political question, that many of the States have already secured the passage of wholesome restraints upon the dreadful evils of drunkenness. The cry against "mixing temperance and politics," is a cry that has been raised by rummies, and more than a thou-

sand whisky sellers and demagogues in Maine, New York, and other States, have raised this cry whilst they have stood behind their counters, buying votes with grog, and liberally "mixing whiskey with politics," but whenever a temperance man hints at the necessity of "mixing a little temperance with politics," up go their hands in holy horror, at the dangers that threaten our civil liberties by uniting "church and State," and all that sort of senseless rant. Now we believe that whiskey has controlled politics in many sections of our country, about long enough, and we propose to "mix in" a little temperance, and see how that will work.

But we have already run this article to perhaps a tedious length, and we shall cut the matter short for the present, although we would like to say a few more things upon this matter. As the Advocate seems not to have taken any "stubborn" ground as yet we most sincerely hope, it will reconsider its position, and yet come up to ground as "high," as that occupied by temperance men in Oregon, to say the least. Its present position we are sure will lack much of satisfying the friends of temperance, in the Methodist connection.

He that tries to please everybody, will please nobody, and the man who seats himself astride of the fence, will always find it the most uncomfortable position in the universe.

More Improvements. A. E. Wait, Esq., is erecting a nice dwelling house immediately below Dr. Barclay's. Mr. Hatch has laid out under great obligations by repairing the sidewalk. We called the attention of the public to the dangerous condition of the gaping, rickety concern, some six weeks ago. Mr. Hatch has finally taken it in hand, and like a sensible man commenced removing the old planks and laying down new, immediately in front of our sanctum. Mr. Hatch, we are informed, has probably done more towards improving the highways in and around Oregon City than any other man in it. He seems peculiarly adapted to the wants of a new country. He not only spends the week in laboring for the public good, but on Lord's day he devotes himself to the improvement of the children of our city, in the capacity of a "Sunday School Superintendent." We look upon him as one of the main pillars of the place, and we hope never to lose him.

Whitery and Corruption.—A member of the American Order has called upon the editor of the Louisville Journal and stated he had been approached by an enemy of the Order, and offered \$100 if he would withdraw from the Order, and \$10 for each member he could induce to withdraw with him! The Journal has also a letter stating that the same price has been offered for precisely the same object, in Shelby county, and that two at least of the three or four who had withdrawn in that county had received \$100 apiece for the operation.—Ed.

Money must certainly be much plentier in Kentucky than in Oregon, if it takes ten dollars to buy a political scullion. We are told, on account of the desperate condition of the Times in our country, some choice lots of No. 2 politicians have gone off in Portland at a "split difference" between a five and a ten, and buyers grumbling dreadfully at that. We see by the papers that few sales have been effected, even at that price. One or two who in order to get the \$750 endeavor to crawl in, failed to receive the "brand," by which they hoped to establish a "property" which would enable them to effect a sale. The price may have fallen still lower since the mines went in. Will those papers below that have been disputing so much about this matter of late, give us the information we need in their "weekly price current?"

Potatoes. Mr. S. K. Barlow, of Canemah, has presented us some fine specimens of potatoes, which he has produced from the balls. The seed was planted four years ago, and he informs us that all the potatoes produced from this seed, are large and fine, fully equal to the specimens handed in, thirteen of which weighed sixteen pounds. If the potato rot should ever reach this country (which we very much fear) we shall expect to hear that Mr. Barlow is supplying the farmers with seed potatoes, for we are inclined to believe that those produced every few years from the balls will not take the rot.

We have been informed by many persons from the States, that the vines immediately cease to produce potato balls upon the first appearance of the rot. A farmer from Ohio informed us, that if the balls were sent from Oregon to the States he thought potatoes might be produced free from disease. At all events we believe it an excellent plan to renew the seed in this way occasionally.

The Corvallis Statesman of last week contained but one willful falsehood concerning us. Is the young man under conviction!

The Canemah is now hauled ashore above the falls, and undergoing repairs upon her bottom.

Interesting News from Polk. BETHEL INSTITUTE, Polk Co., Sept. 28, 1855.

Mr. Editor—DEAR SIR: I write to inform you that Bethel Institute is so far advanced towards completion that we shall be prepared to receive students by the 22d of October. That day is set apart for the opening and dedication of the Institution. Its patrons intend to make it a school of a high order. A system of correct moral training of the youth in its departments will be adhered to, entirely free from all sectarian influences and restraints. The Institution will be alike accessible to all of every religious creed, whose private opinions will be held sacred as personal property.—The moral principles of the Bible will be inculcated, and Biblical history taught, as an important part of a complete and thorough course of study. No trammels will be placed upon free discussion, upon all questions, and freedom of speech will be held sacred as one of our liberties, unmitigably secured to all in our glorious Declaration of Independence. Our enterprise is emphatically Protestant in conception and design. A censorship over either opinion or belief, instead of a judgment upon moral character, we look upon as the key-stone of the huge fabric of Papal usurpation. Hence a censorship over a man's theological belief we look upon as the introduction of an insidious lever under the main pillar of religious liberty. Students will be free to attend upon such religious services upon each Lord's Day as they may choose. The great object the patrons have in view is to establish an institution for the people, where our sons and daughters can be morally, physically, and intellectually trained, and prepared for the active duties of life.

For the information of those who may wish to avail themselves of the advantages of our school, I will state that two board-houses are already being erected, where boarding can be had for \$2 50 per week. Tuition will be lower than in any school now known to me in the Territory. This land is already divided into lots of ten acres each, (less the streets) and will be sold to purchasers on any number of years' credit, the purchaser paying annually ten per cent upon the purchase money, the proceeds to be applied to defraying tuition expenses. The Board of Trustees meets on the 6th of October, at 9 o'clock A. M. We should be glad to see you present.

Respectfully, G. O. BURNETT.

We are glad that friend Burnett has taken the trouble to report progress upon the edifice of Bethel Institute. We were right in our prediction that the "responsibility" had fallen upon proper shoulders—that man had undertaken this enterprise who would yet prove that they had counted the cost before they commenced building. We see nothing in the way of our friends' soon realizing their most sanguine expectations, in seeing a large number of the youth of that section of country reaping such incalculable benefits from their labors as shall gladden the hearts of their parents. We feel truly gratified that the friends at Bethel seem to harmonize in their views and feelings so well with the respectable association that convened near Albany on the 6th ult., "composed of pastors and lay delegates" of Congregational and Presbyterian Churches of Oregon. Nobody, we presume, has forgotten the resolutions passed by that body upon the subject of education. For fear they have, however, we shall give the two first resolutions a second insertion: "Resolved, That this Association has no wish or purpose to establish or support educational institutions for sectarian purposes." "Resolved, That, in our judgment, every such institution, to fulfill the high ends of truth and intelligence, should be free from ecclesiastical control, but that they should be controlled by religious and evangelical Boards of Trust."

The first resolution we most heartily approve of, without any explanation, and the second would be so construed by its originators, no doubt, as to also fully accord with our views. The "Board of Trust" controlling an institution of learning, in which we, as full believers in the great truths of revelation, wish our offspring to receive a decidedly religious impress, ought at least to be sufficiently interested in this matter to see that such tutors are employed as shall not thwart one prominent design of a thorough course of education. If the Board were unbelievers in the testimony of the Evangelists of course they could hardly be considered "evangelical," and the natural inference would be that they would fail to be sufficiently interested in the great cardinal principles of our most holy religion, to give even a preference to tutors religiously disposed.

But the making a development of moral character a part of the design of a school, is one thing, and the establishment of an institution for sectarian purposes, is quite another. Our country is entirely too new for sectarian colleges or sectarian enterprises of any kind whatever. All the great moral and educational undertakings of the day for delirious error and waging war upon the vices that threaten the peace of society, ought to be so shaped that the really virtuous and philanthropic of all associations and of all creeds can work shoulder to shoulder in pushing onward the car of moral reform. The individual who, in the present effort to root out the brambles and thorns, to clear off the rubbish, and to drive the subsoil plow of reform through the moral vineyard of

Oregon, preparatory to scattering the good seed, thinks to earn his "penny" by sneaking off into some corner and amusing himself by rearing sectarian cobwebs, occupies an unenviable position indeed.

We want a fraternal union and co-operation of the warm-hearted and philanthropic of all orders, bound together as a band of brothers by the golden chord of charity, to work in this vineyard. We want our clergy to let sectarian and party enterprises go to decay, and lay hold of the great work that equally devolves upon us all; to feed their flocks upon the "unadulterated milk" of such truth as shall bring them to the full measure of the stature of useful citizens as well as professed religionists. 'Tis no time to be starving their hearers to death on theological "blue-jeans."

Methodist Resolutions on Temperance. By reference to the following resolutions, which we take from the "Minutes of the Oregon Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church," held in this city last August, it will be seen that there is quite a contrast between the ground taken in the "report of the committee on temperance" and the "high grounds" taken by the publishing committee of the Methodist organ at Salem. Although, the Advocate has published the action of the Congregational and Presbyterian association, upon the subject of temperance, it has thus far carefully avoided publishing the resolutions of the Methodist conference in regard to either temperance or slavery which we requested them to do, some four weeks since. By the politeness of Rev. Mr. Hines we are enabled to lay the resolutions before our readers.

They are plain, "specific," manly, and to the point, and if they represent the sentiment of the church, we are sure that mortification and disappointment must seize hold of them, whenever they become acquainted with the "grounds" already occupied by their paper.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

In presenting a report to this Conference, your committee deem it unnecessary to enlarge upon the evils of intemperance.—These are so many and great, so wide-spread and wasting in their dire and deadly influence, destroying the peace, happiness, lives and souls of many of our fellow-citizens, that we not only see, but deplore them.

A few words may be proper as to the present position of the temperance cause in the bonds of our Conference, and as to the course to be pursued by us in view of this position. The traffic in spirituous or intoxicating liquors being a system of unmitigated, political, social and moral evil, should never have the sanction and support of law.

We regard moral suasion, open, manly discussion, to be the great principle of progress in all moral reform. But this is as much a social and political, as it is a moral evil; therefore, "Resolved, 1. That with unabated and united effort, we will as a Conference continue to use all the influences of moral suasion for the redemption of all within the bounds of our several charges, from the curse of intemperance.

Resolved, 2. That we will heartily co-operate with our fellow-citizens generally, and our brethren in other churches, to suppress this dreadful scourge of our land, by all honorable and lawful means.

Resolved, 3. That we cannot consent to divest ourselves of Christian principles, when exercising the privileges of freemen, and will disregard party predilections, to secure a prohibitory liquor law within the bounds of this Conference.

J. F. DEVORE, C. O. HOSFORD, J. H. WILBUR.

What about those Nurseries? Several persons from the country have requested information in reference to the growth, price, and variety of the fruit trees in some of those nurseries we spoke of some time since. The time is drawing near when farmers begin to think of making purchases of trees, but we are not able to give them the information they want. If all set out the number of trees they talk of planting, some of our nurseries will look slim before next spring. The public mind seems to be running to fruit just now.

REMOVAL OF GOV. REEDER.—The Democratic Union at Harrisburg, Pa., which has hitherto supported the Administration and endorsed the Nebraska bill, has "got its back up," which will be seen in the manner in which it speaks of the removal of Reeder below: "A blow which will recoil with terrible effect has been struck by the National Administration—Whether it was the impulse of a galvanised imbecility, ill-judging counselors, malice or disapprobation, however, been perpetrated, a wrong which ere long, will bring shame and reproach upon those who were its instigators and doers. The hour has passed when a specious tale will deceive the people. No private charge of kind speculations can be agitated. A high-minded, honorable, fearless and stricken down, because he asserted and would vindicate the rights of freemen against a horde of lawless and law-breaking ruffians."

"Signs of the End."

The whole country has been filled with (imaginary) "wars and rumors of wars" by the Indians on all sides of us, for the last few days. Some of the papers of last Saturday came to hand with the startling intelligence that five hundred Indians were congregated within fifteen miles of White Salmon; that the Clackats and Yakimas had decided upon a general war of extermination against the whites; that Bolon (Indian Agent) was killed, and that seventeen whites had already fallen victims to savage ferocity; that friends and foes were alike to be cut down, that the lower country was to be wiped out first, and that a war of extermination had been decided upon; that two men had been killed near the Snoqualmie pass of the Cascades; that other men were missing, and every reason induced the belief that they had fallen victims to Indian hostility, &c., &c. Right upon the heels of these publications came the report that Miss Clark was massacred, that Fort Vancouver was taken, that several hundred Indians were assembled on the opposite bank of the Columbia from St. Helens, fantastically painted, with powder-horns at their sides, and looking peculiarly "funky" other ways, that the women and children had all come up from St. Helens to Portland, that St. Helens had probably already "gone in" to the war kettle, and the savages were doubtless already lading out the "soup," and filling themselves, preparatory to dining on the roasted ribs of our friends down in Portland, besides many other startling and conflicting reports which we cannot remember, and which make a man's head swim to think of. Enough was credited in Portland to induce a midnight call for a meeting of those opposed to being roasted by the "midnight assassins," and at the dead hour of midnight (we are informed,) war speeches were made, a vigilance committee, consisting of ten persons, was appointed to "keep a vigilant eye upon the Indians strolling about the city," and an "envoy extraordinary" was despatched to the Governor for relief.

Now, kind reader, you may be curious to know what all this has grown out of, (for you doubtless know by this time, that quiet has been restored.) In reference to the report from the Dalls, we can inform you, that Mr. Cox, from Yamhill, has just returned from the Umatilla who informs us that all the Indians he saw on the route were perfectly friendly, and that he should not be afraid to go back among them without arms. He says that an Indian (some say a squaw) had brought in the report to the Dalls that the Indians had killed Bolon.—Some credited the report, as Bolon had been absent beyond the time set for his return. Others gave it no credit, supposing that Bolon had gone farther than he expected. Any farther than that Mr. Cox heard nothing, but expressed great surprise at the amount of news he found in the valley.

Now as to the news from St. Helens, it seems that some person had seen a party of Indians, on the north bank of the Columbia, which, as is their custom in the fall, had gathered in to take up their winter quarters, and he thought from the red clay on their eyebrows, and from their having powder horns, that they must possess diabolical intentions. He reported what he saw at St. Helens, the report soon reached Portland, and produced the dreadful "hubbub" which we have already spoken of. Nobody is badly in fault on account of the excitement, of course, but the report has made many of our matrons' hearts throb with anguish" up this way. We should like to say a word or two to place "conductors of public journals" more upon their guard in the future, if we were not afraid we might say something to wound the feelings of some of our brother editors. We think, however, that if we quote a little from one of our cotemporaries as very applicable to the case, no exceptions can be taken to it, especially if we don't endorse it.

"Therefore (weary) all the idle rumors of the massacre of * * * as published by our cotemporaries, turns out to be a hoax. That bump of marvellousness, so prominent on the craniums of the boobies who edit certain newspapers, leads them into many errors in the way of news. * * * It is a matter of regret that public journals should give currency to every idle rumor, in their hot haste to give an item of news. * * *

"It would be well if newspaper editors would adopt more caution before they publish the many idle floating rumors, which must cause many hearts to throb with anguish."—Oregonian.

Geo. L. Curry, Acting Governor of Oregon, passed through this place yesterday, on his way home from the "scene of Indian difficulties" at Portland. The Gov. deserves great credit for his cool intrepidity, and prompt response to the "Macedonian cry" that went up from below, of "come over (down) and help us."

Those people up country who are anxious about the safety of their friends at the Dalls, will no doubt rest perfectly easy, when we assure them that Lieut. Col. McCracken is there.

We have to request our correspondents more, not to write on both sides of a sheet, when their articles are intended for publication in The Argus. We have known scores of communications, although faultless in other respects, thrown aside solely because they were written on both sides of the sheet.